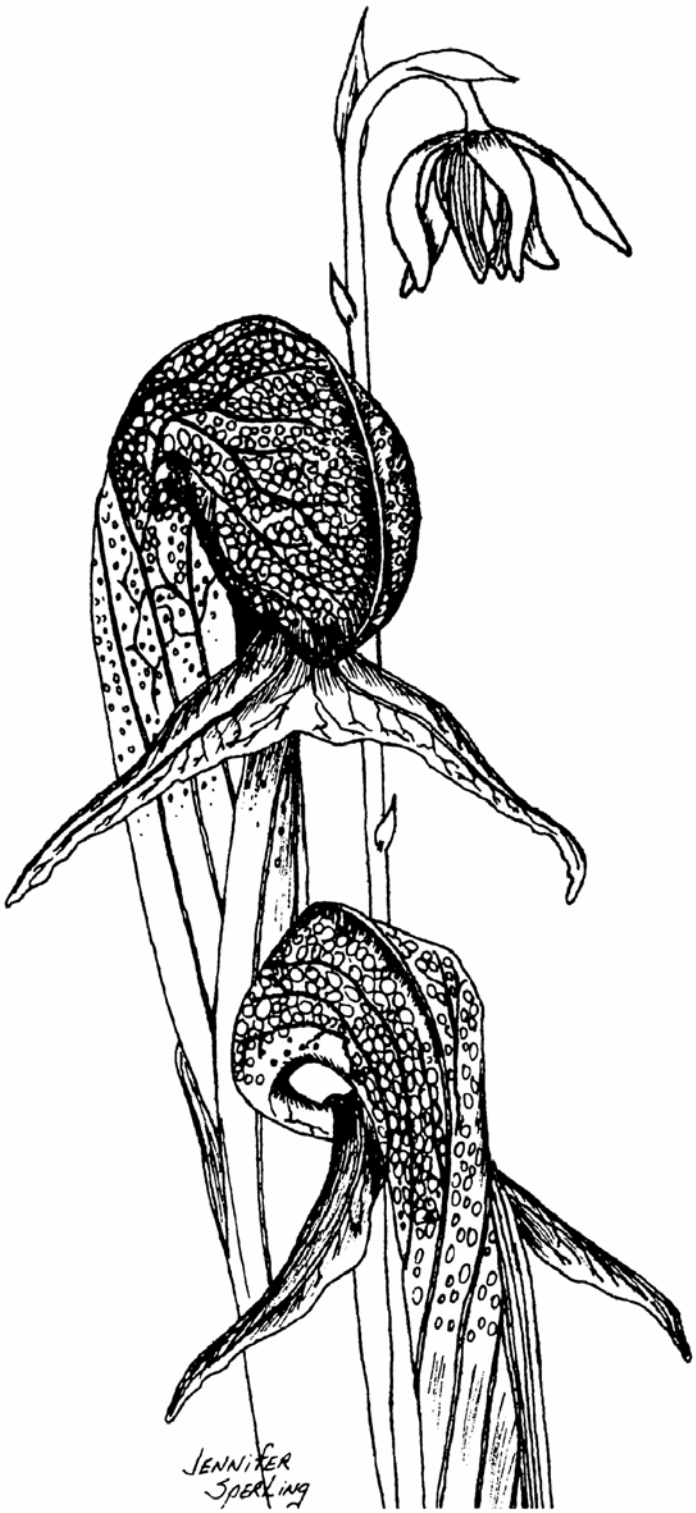
PART THREE
THE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



PART 3 – THE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Introduction

The foremost theme of the management plan is to conserve the designated values of the New River ACEC for generations to come. The backbone of the plan is its goals and objectives, which together establish the management direction and set forth specific resource values to be addressed. Also important is BLM's commitment to adaptive management of the New River area in order to more effectively achieve the goals and objectives of the ACEC.

The plan update includes a re-organization of the original plan's objectives to improve clarity of the management direction and readability of the document. The update includes two new objectives that have been separated out of the original eight objectives. They include: Objective 9: Cooperative Management, which was separated out from Objective 6: Site Administration and Development; and Objective 10: The Land Acquisition Strategy, which was separated out from Objective 1: Wildlife and Plant Resources. Another re-organization of the original objectives includes separating out project-specific monitoring actions from Objective 8: Monitoring and Research, and incorporating them in with their associated objective.

Goals and objectives are listed below, followed by details of each objective, including: reasons for action, planned actions, and actions accomplished or on-going. Planned actions are designed to be consistent with the management plan's goals and also to help meet one or more of the other objectives. "Actions Accomplished or On-going" is a new section for each objective that shows actions which have been addressed since the original management plan was finalized. Due to the interrelationship of the various resources at New River, many actions apply to more than one objective. These actions have been listed under the objective where the association is most direct to avoid duplication throughout the document. Any additional actions identified at a later date will be evaluated to ensure their appropriateness and compliance with the goals and objectives set forth in this management plan.

Management Goals

Goal 1 – Manage habitat for biodiversity (i.e., a full range of native species, habitats, and ecological processes) and ecosystem health with special emphasis on sensitive wildlife and botanical species.

Goal 2 – Protect significant cultural resources from human disturbance or destruction.

Goal 3 – Manage for recreational activities that are compatible with protecting cultural resources and managing habitat for biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Goal 4 – Use environmental education and interpretation as a tool to manage visitor impacts and to broaden the appreciation and stewardship of the New River ACEC.

Management Objectives

Objective 1 – Maintain, enhance, or restore ecosystem health, and ensure management supports a variety of habitats at different successional levels, particularly, but not limited to, those which are necessary for special status species using the area.

Objective 2 – Establish suitable water flow and quality, and maintain areas in a condition supportive of a healthy aquatic ecosystem.

Objective 3 – Protect and interpret important cultural resources at New River.

Objective 4 – Accommodate low-impact recreational use at New River while providing a variety of experience opportunities to help meet existing and anticipated demands.

Objective 5 – Promote awareness and appreciation for New River's many resource values, especially those significant to its ACEC designation; also foster a "Leave No Trace" / "Minimum Impact" land use ethic and similar attitudes in visitors at New River.

Objective 6 – Provide adequate use supervision, visitor facilities, services, signing, and programs to protect resources and support planned visitor use activities and levels.

Objective 7 – Provide reasonable access to visitor use areas and the river with minimal impact on natural and cultural resources and visitor experiences.

Objective 8 – Facilitate improved management of the New River area through monitoring and research to learn more about the natural and cultural resources of the area.

Objective 9 – Facilitate cooperative management of the New River area to better protect resource values through coordination and collaboration with others.

Objective 10 – Develop an effective acquisition strategy in collaboration with willing landowners to improve overall protection and public benefit of the New River area.

Plant and Wildlife Resources

Objective 1 – Maintain, enhance, or restore ecosystem health, and ensure management supports a variety of habitats at different successional levels, particularly, but not limited to, those which are necessary for special status species using the area.

Reasons for Action

- The BLM is required to follow federal laws and regulations and has established a policy to prevent the need to list fish, wildlife, and plants under the Endangered Species Act. Furthermore, the BLM is directed to encourage management which will lead to the successful recovery and eventual delisting of species already on the Endangered Species List.

- Over the years, alterations to the habitat have interfered with natural community succession. For example, forested areas were cleared to create pastures, shore pines were planted for windbreaks, fires were suppressed, and natural wetlands were converted to cranberry bogs.

- Exotic (non-native) vegetation, such as European beach grass, and noxious weeds, such as gorse, Scotch broom, and Brazilian waterweed, are replacing native vegetation and opportunistically becoming established on sites otherwise unoccupied by grass or shrub species. For example, gorse and Scotch broom are shrubs which have become established in grassland habitats devoid of any native shrub species. This spread of exotic and noxious vegetation is altering habitats and interfering with natural succession.

- Resource and vegetative management is necessary to maintain the natural communities, successional processes, and ecosystem health.

- Historic nesting areas of the Western Snowy Plover, a federally threatened species, have been altered by the introduction of European beach grass, increased predator populations and pressures, and increased human access and activity on beaches.

- Some wetland habitats need maintenance or restoration to support waterfowl and shorebird populations which, in turn, provide a prey base for Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons.

- Human activities may disturb plant and wildlife resources. Management actions need to have a balanced approach to ensure protection and limit disturbance to plant and wildlife resources.

Planned Actions

General Botany

- Coordinate with other agencies and private landowners to restore degraded and disturbed plant communities.

Special Status Plant Species

- Monitor and assess success of reintroduced populations of the pink sand-verbena and western lily, two special status species.

- Develop opportunities for collaborative habitat management on public and private land to increase the amount of habitat suitable for rare species and to link isolated populations with one another.

- Collect special status plant seeds as necessary for storage at the Berry Botanic Garden's Cryogenic Seed Bank.

- Conduct inventory of the vascular and non-vascular flora on a periodic basis, perhaps once every five years, to document changes to native and exotic species.

Pink sand-verbena

- Facilitate recovery of this species by determining its recovery needs and, if appropriate, introduce and establish a population on the foredune where habitat is present, possibly by spreading seeds.

- Coordinate pink sand-verbena conservation activities with management of Western Snowy Plover and implement beach and dune ecosystem restoration for multiple species.

Seaside cryptantha

- Maintain existing populations and habitat at existing levels. Depending upon funding and staffing, conduct monitoring of population status and trends, study the reproductive ecology of the species, and establish additional populations in areas that would not impact other management activities.

Seaside gilia

- Maintain existing populations and habitat at existing levels. Depending upon funding and staffing, conduct monitoring of population status and trends, study the reproductive ecology of the species, and establish additional populations in areas that would not impact other management activities.

Silvery phacelia

- Maintain populations and habitat at existing levels. Depending upon funding and staffing, conduct monitoring of population status and trends, study the reproductive ecology of the species, and establish additional populations in appropriate areas (e.g., away from established recreation trails).

Western lily

- Implement on- and off-site conservation measures and public outreach activities described in the final recovery plan for the western lily, finalized by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Gurerrant et al. 1998).

Wolf's evening-primrose

- Support a project to study introduction of the species for recruitment, seed production, and the ability to develop a self-sustaining population through cultivation and field introduction techniques. These actions are integral to recovery of the species and may reduce the potential for federal listing of the species.

Bureau Assessment and Tracking Plant Species

- Within the vascular and nonvascular plants, several Bureau assessment species and Bureau tracking species are present at New River (Tables 1 and 2). Maintain existing populations and habitats at existing levels.

- Conduct monitoring of population status and trends, study the reproductive ecology of the species, threats, habitat changes, and effects of management treatments and practices either visually or quantitatively, on a yearly basis. Establish additional populations as warranted.

Globally Ranked Plant Communities

- There are two globally ranked plant communities at New River: the American dunegrass and the bog blueberry/tufted hairgrass communities. Maintain existing communities at current levels. Conduct restoration activities and monitor the status and trends of the communities. Restore these communities

by removing encroaching conifers and shrubs using either mechanical means or reintroduction of fire as appropriate.

Exotic Plants and Noxious Weeds

- Remove exotic plants and noxious weeds, such as European beach grass, gorse, Scotch broom, and Brazilian waterweed using integrated pest management practices, such as fire, mechanical or manual removal, and herbicide application. Restore damaged plant communities by spreading native seed and planting native plants.

- Use best management practices to prevent the further spread of exotic plants and noxious weeds.

- Monitor exotic and noxious weed species to document existing population areas, effectiveness of management actions for removal, and the spread of these species to new sites.

General Wildlife

- Complete inventories of wildlife species and their habitats.

- Provide protection to wildlife by promoting management actions that fully consider habitat requirements for birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and invertebrates. Determine what management practices are needed for the long-term protection of those habitats.

- To minimize habitat fragmentation and disturbance to wildlife, manage all undeveloped areas of the ACEC for ecosystem health and biodiversity.

- Document the success of habitat restoration projects and/or other management actions.

Special Status Wildlife Species

- Coordinate with USFWS to implement recovery plans to protect threatened or endangered species.

- Monitor Aleutian Canada Goose, Western Snowy Plover, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and other special status species through a consistent annual monitoring program. Track the effect of management actions and visitor use on wildlife habitats and behaviors.

Aleutian Canada Goose

- Protect habitat values and minimize harassment in known goose activity areas during peak migratory periods (approximately from March 15 to May 1 and October 15 to November 30).

- Encourage adjacent private ranchers to provide foraging and resting areas during peak migratory periods through cooperative agreements, conservation easements, or other incentives. Collaborate with USFWS on such programs.

Bald Eagle

- Inventory and assess the value of existing perches and potential nesting sites. Where needed, improve Bald Eagle habitat, consistent with Bald Eagle Recovery Plan objectives and Coos Bay Resource

Management Plan objectives, by creating naturalistic nesting and perch sites from existing trees within a half-mile of water sources.

- If hunting is found to have a detrimental effect on the Bald Eagle, BLM may petition ODFW for additional hunting closures as suggested in the USFWS recovery plan.

- If it is determined Bald Eagles are nesting within the ACEC, management recommendations for limiting disturbance will be applied as per the 1986 Recovery Plan for the Pacific Bald Eagle.

- Protect Bald Eagle wintering areas from disturbance from approximately November 15 to March 15.

- Encourage nearby private landowners to assist in improving bald eagle habitat by providing perching and nesting sites on their lands through cooperative agreements.

- Provide optimum natural foraging opportunities for Bald Eagles by supporting healthy fish and waterfowl habitat and populations.

Brown Pelican

- Determine the habitat use of the Brown Pelican in the New River area.

Peregrine Falcon

- Maintain or enhance Peregrine Falcon habitat consistent with the American Peregrine Falcon Recovery Plan.

- Determine Peregrine Falcon winter use areas through inventories. Develop management strategies that will minimize disturbance (October 1 through March 31) of key areas and retain natural structures (trees) used by Peregrine Falcons.

- If hunting is found to have a detrimental effect on Peregrine Falcons, BLM may implement the recovery plan options and petition ODFW for additional hunting closure within the ACEC.

- Manage and monitor natural Peregrine Falcon perch sites. Management may include, but not limited to, creating/manipulating perches, enhancing waterfowl and shorebird habitat, and ensuring access to this prey base by minimizing human disturbances in the area.

Red-legged Frog

- Determine the distribution and abundance of the red-legged frog and habitat used by the frog through monitoring efforts conducted annually between January 15 and April 15. Survey for egg masses to ensure wetland habitats allow for breeding.

- Determine the impacts of the introduced bullfrog on red-legged frog populations.

Steller Sea Lion

- Identify extent of sea lion and seal use of the New River area (i.e., haul-out points along the beach, feeding areas near river mouths, and within the New River estuary). Protect pups and haul-out areas from human disturbance.

Western Pond Turtle

- Determine distribution and relative abundance of western pond turtle and monitor its status in the New River ACEC.

- Implement habitat improvements for this species as opportunities become available.

Western Snowy Plover

- Implement the recovery plan for the Pacific Coast Population of the Western Snowy Plover when it is finalized by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Implement the draft recovery plan in the interim.

- Manage and continue restoring Western Snowy Plover breeding and wintering habitat on the foredune.

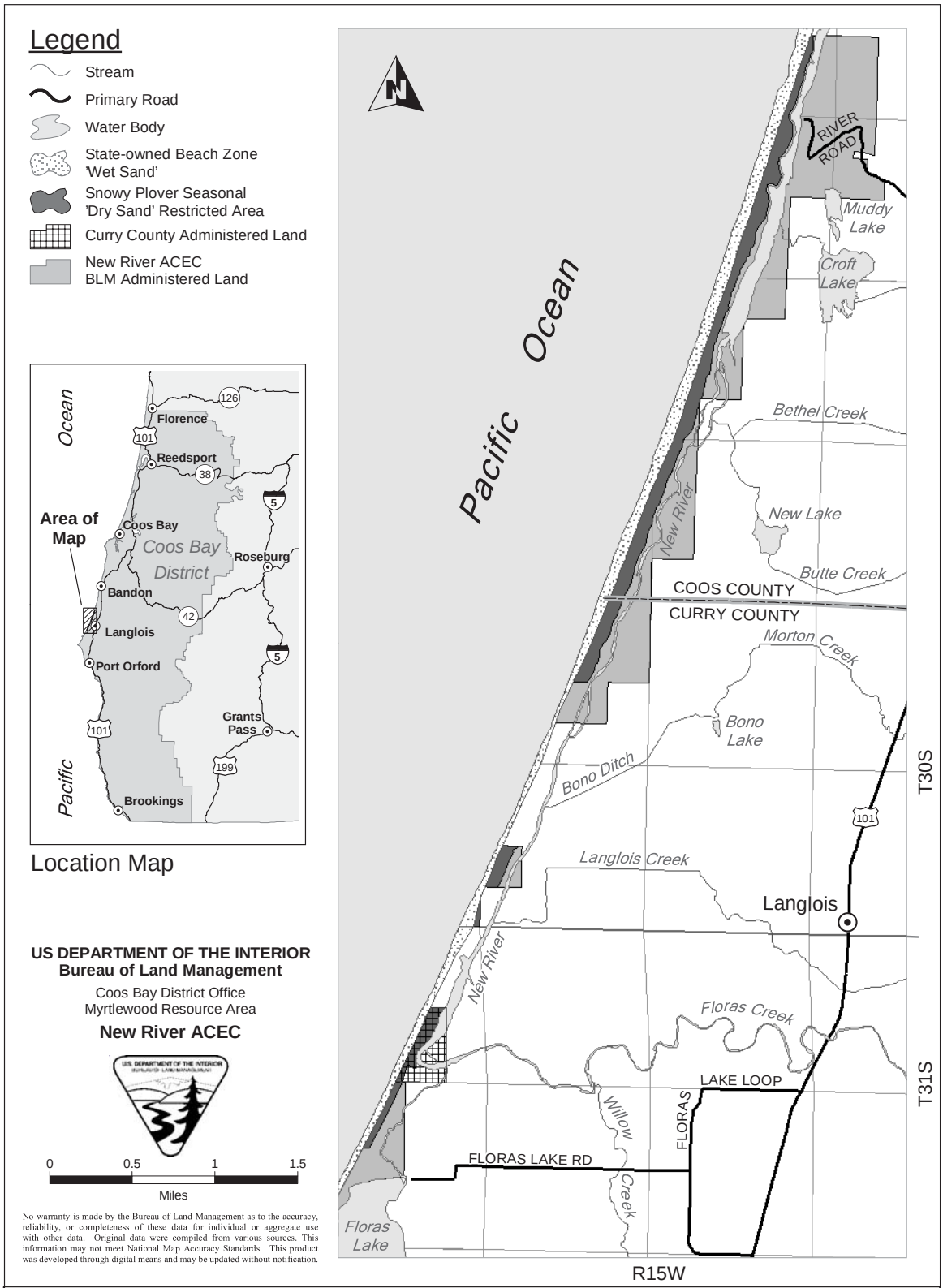
- Restrict public vehicular access to the boat launch at Storm Ranch during the plover nesting season. This limits the amount of people and watercraft accessing New River and the foredune, which lessens disturbance to nesting and brooding plovers and other wildlife in the area.

- Support the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's Habitat Conservation Plan when it becomes final. Continue to partner with various agencies represented by the Plover Working Team to ensure cooperative management across public lands.

- At Floras Lake, implement dry-sand restrictions as outlined in the Cooperative Management Agreement between BLM and Curry County, which restricts public access to plover nesting area from March 15 through September 15. See Objective 9: Coordination and Cooperation for details of this agreement.

- On the foredune west of New River, implement dry-sand restrictions from March 15 through September 15. Restrict recreational use to these areas, but allow non-motorized use on the wet sand beach. See Map 4. Snowy Plover Seasonal Beach Restrictions.

- Require dogs to be leashed adjacent to snowy plover breeding areas.



Map 4: Snowy Plover Seasonal Beach Restrictions

Designated snowy plover nesting area along the foredune of New River.

Yuma Myotis

- Determine the distribution and relative abundance of the Yuma myotis bat, other bat species, and habitat used by bats through monitoring as per the Coos Bay District Bat Monitoring Plan.

Actions Accomplished or On-going

General Botany

- Since 2001, yearly mushroom monitoring has been conducted to ensure mushroom beds are not being destroyed by illegal harvesting. This compliance monitoring has helped determine the effectiveness of law enforcement strategies to control the illegal collection of forest products within the ACEC.

- A vegetation map of the historic plant communities of New River was prepared by Christy (2000, 2002) based upon survey notes taken by the General Land Office surveyors in 1857 and 1880.

Exotic Plants and Noxious Weeds

- Since 2002, BLM has implemented a yearly exotic and noxious weeds eradication project throughout the New River ACEC. Over thirty acres of habitat have been mechanically treated to remove gorse, Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, silver wattle, and pampas grass. Based upon monitoring results, areas are retreated as needed to ensure weeds do not recolonize the area.

Special Status Plant Species

Pink sand-verbena

- In 2000, an experimental population of pink sand-verbena was established on the New River foredune Habitat Restoration Area (HRA) through a Challenge Cost Share project. This work will be continued under a Cooperative Conservation Initiative with the Western Snowy Plover habitat recovery. The habitat restoration management should be continued by removing European beach grass, spreading pink sand-verbena seeds during the spring, and annually monitoring the population status and trends. Other monitoring and research activities described in the Final Conservation Strategy for the pink sand-verbena (USDI et al. 2004) should be implemented.

Seaside gilia

- In 2004, study of the reproductive biology, habitat type and requirements, population ecology, and conservation status and implications was initiated as part of a Challenge Cost Share project.

Silvery phacelia

- In 1995, a BLM conservation strategy was prepared for silvery phacelia (Rittenhouse 1995). It called for updating known occurrences, conducting additional inventory, monitoring population trends and habitat, site specific management of known populations, and coordination of conservation efforts. When an interagency conservation strategy is established for silvery phacelia, its suggestions should be adopted for use at New River.

Western lily

- In 1996, the BLM initiated recovery efforts through a Challenge Cost Share project with Berry Botanic Garden to establish an experimental *ex situ* population in the Storm Ranch/Muddy Lake area. Old and new seed, along with bulbs, were planted in two substrate types. Periodically trim the surrounding vegetation and annually monitor the population status and trends.

Wolf's evening primrose

- In 2004, a project to establish an ex-situ population of Wolf's evening primrose, a Bureau sensitive species not previously found at New River, was initiated as part of a Challenge Cost Share project.

General Wildlife

- Since 1996, breeding bird surveys have been conducted annually in and around Storm Ranch. Of the 171 bird species detected during this survey between 1996 and 2003, 86 have been identified as

potential or probable breeding species. Bird species should continue to be monitored in order to document changes in density and diversity which may occur over time.

- A program to monitor the affect of visitor-use related activities on wildlife behavior and habitat use is currently being implemented (Appendix H). This monitoring includes information about presence and absence of wildlife species in certain use areas associated with human activities. If adverse impacts occur, measures will be taken to reduce or eliminate such impacts.

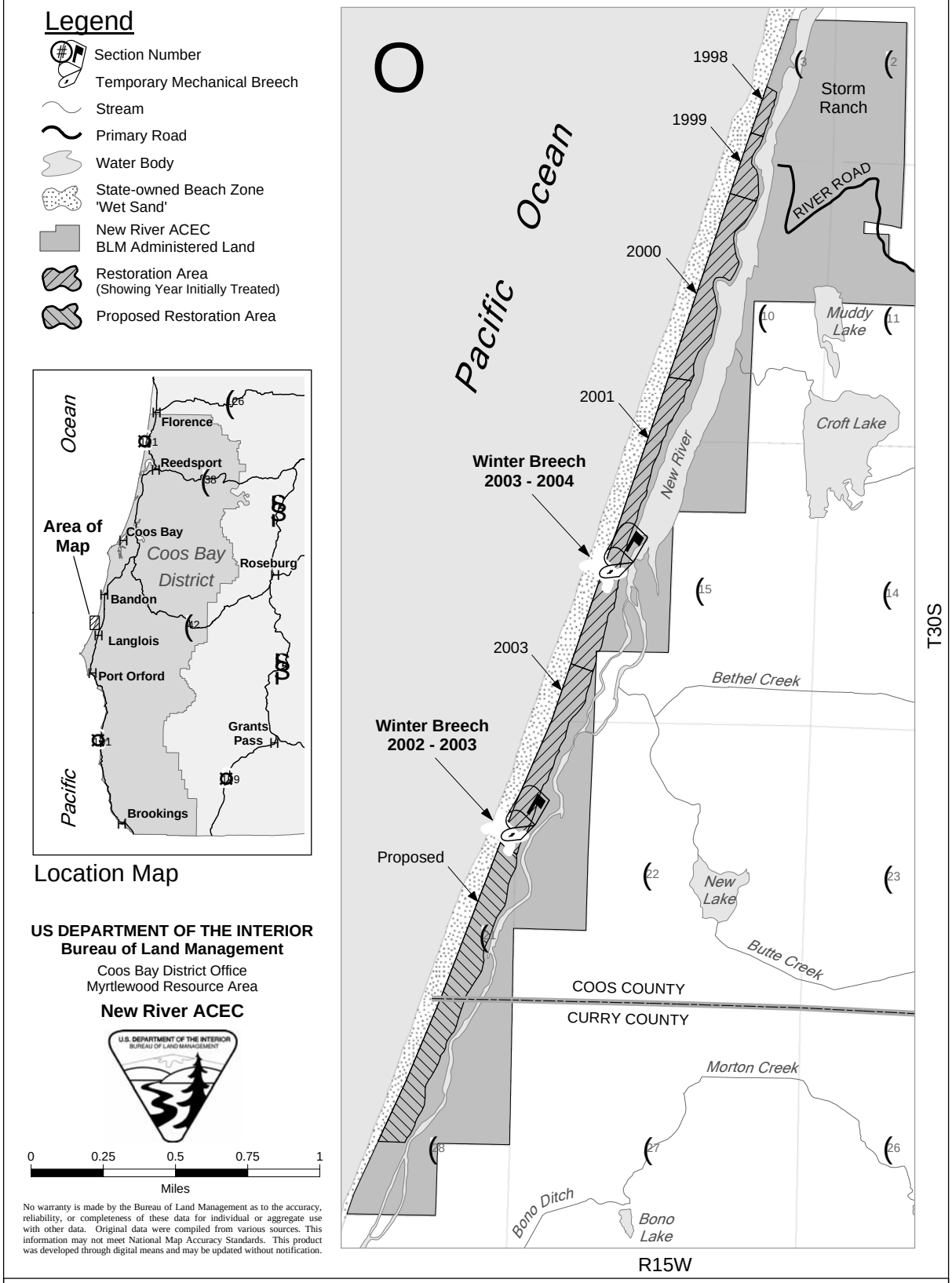
- Significant amounts of barbed-wire fence have been removed from the Storm Ranch, improving wildlife movement through the area.

Special Status Wildlife Species

Western Snowy Plover

- Since 1998, BLM has implemented a yearly habitat restoration project on the New River foredune designed to provide breeding and wintering habitat for the Western Snowy Plover. Approximately 160 acres of foredune have been treated (i.e., bulldozer use and prescribed fire) to remove European beach grass. Other native coastal dune species such as sanderling, sandpiper, and reintroduced pink sand-verbena have benefited as well. This coastal dune habitat restoration project has also been integrated with on-the-ground work needed to develop temporary breaches designed to improve aquatic habitat as described in Objective 2, Fisheries and Water Resources. Other than at temporary breach locations, a 50-foot buffer of European beach grass is left along the east side of the foredune to ensure that sand is not deposited into New River. See Map 5: Coastal Dune Restoration Area, for more details about the location of these projects within the ACEC.

Restored coastal dune habitat along the foredune of New River. Note the southern edge of the restoration area where European beach grass remains.



Map 5: Coastal Dune Restoration Area

Snowy plover hatchling

- In an effort to bolster the local Western Snowy Plover population, BLM and other state and federal agencies have combined efforts to implement a predator management program targeting non-native red fox, as well as other native predators (e.g., Common Raven and American Crow).

  The 2004 Western Snowy Plover breeding season will be the third year that the Integrated Predator Damage Management Program will be employed at plover nesting areas along the Oregon Coast (with the exception of one partial season at the New River ACEC in 1999). In the past, predation of plover eggs, chicks, and occasionally adults has occurred within the New River area, with Ravens, American Crows, and red fox accounting for the majority of the predation, although other predators (e.g., raccoon and Peregrine Falcon) are known to take plover too.

  The majority of predator management has been conducted at the three Southern Oregon Coast sites: Coos Bay North Spit, Bandon State Natural Area, and the New River ACEC. Managing ravens, particularly at New River, appeared successful in allowing plovers to raise chicks to the fledging stage. Of 218 predators removed at the three sites, 150 (69%) were Common Raven, 38 (17%) were American Crow, and 12 (5%) were red fox. As mentioned above, Western Snowy Plover nest and fledging success during the 2003 breeding season was the best since full-scale monitoring along the

Oregon Coast began in 1990. During the 2003 season, a record 59 young fledged and predator management at plover breeding sites was a key element to that success.

- In partnership, federal and state agencies conduct coast-wide monitoring. Twice a year, plover habitat is surveyed along the Oregon coast to assess population trends. These surveys are coordinated over the same time period in Oregon and more frequently in California and Washington for a range-wide perspective. ODFW and USFWS maintain and compare the survey data dating back to the 1970s. The agencies have also combined funds to support an intensive monitoring effort to assess Western Snowy Plover reproductive success. This work has been on-going since 1990. Biologists track breeding plovers, place predator exclosures around nests, and band birds. Data on reproductive success is summarized in annual report comparing and contrasting other nesting sites and prior years. Biologists and managers can then assess the effectiveness of various management measures to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act and ultimately the recovery of the species.

- BLM alone and in partnership with agencies that participate in the Snowy Plover Working Team has pursued several outreach efforts to better inform beach visitors about plover management. BLM has provided on-site interpreters in the New River area to answer questions and to ensure and track compliance with restrictions. These interpreters and other BLM staff also provide "naturalist programs" at nearby campgrounds and area schools. Several interpretative signs have been placed in the New River ACEC at key locations to help visitors understand the plover's plight and show restricted versus open areas. BLM has been actively involved with the Plover Working Team to develop a step-down outreach strategy as part of the Recovery Plan for Oregon and Washington. This strategy includes brochures, presentations, coordinated signage, and other outreach tools.

- Each breeding season BLM places symbolic fencing and signs to mark restricted areas for plover breeding throughout the ACEC. Employees monitor the areas and maintain fencing several times each week from March through September. BLM law enforcement staff and contracted sheriff deputies also monitor the restricted areas throughout the season.

Yuma Myotis

- Since 1995, bat boxes have been maintained on several structures in the Storm Ranch area, which are periodically used by the Yuma myotis bat.

Fisheries and Water Resources

Objective 2 – Establish suitable water flow and quality, and maintain areas in a condition supportive of a healthy aquatic ecosystem.

Reasons for Action

- Fish populations in New River have been declining. Oregon Coast coho salmon have been federally listed as a threatened species. Oregon Coast steelhead have been designated as a candidate for federal listing; and Pacific lamprey, western brook lamprey, and river lamprey are being petitioned for federal listing.

- South Coast fall run stocks of Chinook, south of Bandon are listed as state sensitive by ODFW (1992). Pacific lamprey, coastal cutthroat trout and coastal steelhead are listed as vulnerable by ODFW.

- The BLM has a responsibility to conserve special status species and the ecosystems upon which they depend.

- As part of the Riparian-Wetland Initiative, the BLM is charged with restoring and maintaining riparian-wetland areas so that 75% or more is in a properly functioning condition.

- Many organisms in the New River area depend on a clean, year-round water source. Maintenance of good perennial water quality and quantity is essential to ensure healthy and productive plant and animal communities.

- Due to agricultural purposes, wetlands throughout the watershed have been converted to cranberry production and pastures for livestock grazing. Cooperative management could improve many of the wetlands' functions and processes and thereby ensure a perennial flow in New River.

- Increased local development and water use on nearby lands will affect water flow quantity and quality, and the health and diversity of New River's aquatic ecosystem.

- Natural breaching is an important component of New River. Timing and conditions surrounding natural breaching, and even the location of the breach all play a role in the river's health. Mechanical breaching, used periodically to relieve flooding, can change channel dimensions, water flow volume and duration with either positive or negative effects. Mechanical breaching at northerly locations may enhance the quality of the aquatic habitat by retaining the length of New River.

Planned Actions

Fisheries

- Assist in revising the basin-wide Fish Management Plan to restore the Floras Creek-New River fisheries, which includes coho and Chinook salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout, and their habitats. Other cooperators in the restoration effort may include private landowners and other interested organizations and individuals. This may be part of the local watershed council discussed below under water quality.

- Inform the public about angling restrictions and work with the State Police and ODFW to enforce salmon angling closures and catch limits along New River, especially at Storm Ranch.

- Coordinate with adjacent ranchers to monitor and assess the likelihood of stranding adult and juvenile salmon and steelhead in pastures during mechanical breaching events.

- Cooperate with ODFW in future smolt trap operation and other data collection.

- Conduct an angler creel survey jointly with ODFW for catch of anadromous fish in New River to determine fish populations, age structure, composition, and the fishing pressure.

- Conduct a basic inventory for cutthroat and coho salmon and Chinook salmon, independent of creel surveys.

- Continue to gather baseline information on breaching, flows, and habitat use by all fish species.

- Use aquatic invertebrate sampling techniques to monitor and evaluate general water quality in New River.

Watershed/Riparian

- Manage the area to protect riparian vegetation from human disturbance by restricting vehicle access at key points and controlling livestock activity. If riparian vegetation shows sign of excessive disturbance caused by recreation activities, adjust visitor use management strategies to reduce or prevent impacts.

- Monitor fisheries enhancement projects using large woody debris to determine benefits and apply knowledge gained to future projects.

- Determine the ecological status (i.e., condition, successional stage, and trend) of riparian and wetland vegetation by monitoring key species along the margins of New River. Accurate riparian and wetland vegetation maps are necessary to establish baseline conditions and trends. Low level photography and on-the-ground plots will help establish trends.

- Determine how the river is changing as vegetation stabilizes along the river and upland management improves. Cross-section and gradient profiles will establish a baseline condition.

Water Quality

- Establish a coordinated water quality monitoring program for New River and associated drainages in cooperation with state and county agencies, watershed associations, and adjacent private landowners. This program would be part of a proactive management effort to: 1) detect overall changes in water quality; 2) identify specific contaminants; 3) develop recommendations to deal with existing problems; and 4) identify preventive conservation measures to improve water quality of New River.

- Evaluate water quality conditions for selected physical and chemical parameters over a range of flows. Based on results of analysis, make recommendations for improvement of water quality if necessary.

- Chart salinity regimes in New River to correctly delineate the various riverine and estuarine habitats so that appropriate management techniques can be applied to each. Also, review trends in saltwater wedge incursion to learn more about physical processes at New River.

Water Quantity/Stream Flow

- Strive to maintain a perennial or year-round flow of New River through the implementation of water conservation management strategies consistent with other resource goals and objectives.

- Focus on prevention of channel drying during summer along all portions of the river. Ideas for increased water flows include:

    a) Stabilize movement of the New River channel by maintaining vegetation along stream sides to hold sandy soils in place and reduce bank erosion. Riparian vegetation slows water velocities and aids the recharge of adjacent floodplains during high flows. Although some of this water is lost to evaporation and transpiration, more water is detained after flood events, and is discharged as spring-summer stream flow.

b) Allow uninterrupted natural vegetative succession along the floodplain and margins of New River.

c) If the desired condition of woody vegetation is not being met, consider planting native woody vegetation such as willows in bare areas, or where early seral vegetation is found to improve the functioning condition of New River.

d) Utilize breaching processes to flush sediment out of the river channel, thereby increasing channel depth and water storage.

Natural and Artificial Breaching

- Support mechanical breaching to improve the rivers health or in instances where floodwaters threaten human life or could destroy valuable improvements. Beneficial effects of mechanical breaching may include improving river channel depth to maintain continuous summer flows and lowering high summer stream temperatures. Mechanical breaching should be used as a tool to improve river conditions in an effort to re-establish natural breaching processes.

Actions Accomplished or On-going

Fisheries

- Stream flow conditions and fish distribution were monitored from 1988 to 1996 by BLM fisheries biologists to determine locations and duration of intermittent flow in New River and to document distribution, growth, and peak migration dates of juvenile Chinook salmon throughout the summer. Seining was conducted to determine fish species. This monitoring should be continued periodically to understand changes to the fisheries.

- In 2002, ODFW, in collaboration with the BLM, installed a seasonal smolt trap operation at the outlet of Floras Lake to analyze fish species diversity, distribution, and the timing of out-migration to the ocean.

Smolt trap in operation on Floras Lake outlet.

Watershed/Riparian

- In 2001, the existing grazing permits within the ACEC were analyzed in an environmental assessment (EA OR-128-01-11). Based on the Decision Record of this EA and after negotiating with the ranchers, the grazing permits were converted to Cooperative Management Agreements (CMAs). The CMAs allow livestock to graze in designated portions of the ACEC located outside of the New River corridor, while excluding livestock from accessing the river on both BLM and private lands. This was accomplished by installing several miles of riparian fencing with a setback ranging from 50 to 350 feet. This should lead to the recovery of riparian vegetation, improved bank stability, and water quality within the fenced riparian zones.

- Continue photo point monitoring within each Cooperative Management Agreement area to document recovery of the newly protected riparian areas. Photos should indicate any changes in vegetation over a period of years.

- The South Coast and Coquille Watershed Councils have been established since the original New River management plan was completed. Both organizations are actively collaborating with the BLM and area stakeholders to carry out a variety of monitoring and restoration projects. To date, these watershed councils have accomplished fish passage, riparian fencing, and tree planting projects; installed instream wood structures to create fish habitat; and completed sediment reduction projects through road treatments and bio-engineering to improve water quality throughout the New River watershed.

- Large wood structures were constructed in 2003 along the eastern bank of New River on private ranchlands to restore the eroding banks and improve stream channel complexity. Continue to construct additional large wood structures if monitoring results show the project is effective.

- An on-going riparian tree planting project is being conducted along Floras Lake outlet and New River to establish native vegetation along these waterways. The purpose of the project is to improve bank stability and riparian function. In spring of 2003 and 2004, over 2,000 Sitka and Shore pine seedlings and 4,000 Hooker's willow cuttings have been planted.

- A Proper Functioning Condition assessment was conducted for the riparian areas along New River and its tributaries west of Highway 101.

Natural and Artificial Breaching

- Temporary mechanical breaches were conducted within the ACEC during the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 winters (EA OR-128-03-11). These breaches were effective at channel deepening and providing flood alleviation of adjacent ranch lands. To date, the 2003-2004 winter breach located north of New Lake outlet was the most successful at achieving this balanced management approach. On-the-ground work needed to develop temporary breaches has been integrated with the coastal dune habitat restoration project described in Objective 1: Plant and Wildlife Resources. See Map 5: Coastal Dune Restoration Area, for the location of past mechanical breach sites within the New River ACEC.

- Continue to conduct channel profiles in subsequent years following mechanical breaching to determine if deepening and narrowing of the channel is contributing to increased water quality and improved aquatic habitat (e.g., reducing amount of non-native aquatic weeds).

Cultural Resources

Objective 3 – Protect and interpret important cultural resources at New River.

Reasons for Action

- By law, BLM is required to protect cultural resources. These laws include the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, American Indian Religious Freedoms Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and the Native American Graves and Repatriations Act.

- The Coquille Indian Tribe and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, both federally-recognized tribes, have expressed concern about protection of cultural sites along the Southern Oregon Coast.

Planned Actions

General

- Document the history and prehistory of the New River area, including the activities, fish runs, and other uses in the New River area through the use of historic literature searches, oral interviews with long-time residents, official documents, local libraries and courthouses, and field investigations.

- Avoid ground disturbing activities in locations where significant cultural resources exist. Mitigate any unavoidable impacts through coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

- Allow for the analysis of cultural resources and past environments in the New River area. Any proposed research shall follow guidelines in the Coos Bay Record of Decision and BLM 8100 series manual, as well as all applicable cultural resource laws, rules, and regulations.

- Contribute to site evaluation, interpretation, and cultural preservation by determining site excavation needs. Evaluation-level excavation is needed to determine the significance and condition of sites and eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Mitigation-level excavation may be needed if visitation is expected to have a direct adverse impact on cultural resources.

Native American Concerns

- Consult with interested Indian tribes before initiating any interpretation of Native American uses or ground disturbing activities which may damage cultural resources in the New River ACEC.

- Coordinate cultural resources programs, including any planned excavation, with interested Indian tribes. Provide opportunities for tribal members to participate in excavations.

Actions Accomplished or On-going

- Continue working with the Indian tribes in gaining a better understanding of the paleo-environments and prehistory of the area.

Recreation

Objective 4 – Accommodate low-impact recreational use at New River while providing a variety of experience opportunities to help meet existing and anticipated demands.

Reasons for Action

- The New River ACEC has a dual designation as a Special Recreation Management Area. This designation acknowledges BLM's commitment to provide specific recreation activities and experience opportunities at New River in a manner that is compatible with protecting the natural and cultural resource values of the ACEC. Visitor use needs to be managed in a manner that does not diminish the integrity of these resources.

- New River's natural and cultural resources may be affected by human presence and use. This calls for a balance between public recreational use at New River and protection of its resources.

- Protecting the natural, cultural, and aesthetic values at New River will help to preserve the values of the ACEC for future visitors.

- Hunting on the BLM-administered lands north of Croft Lake outlet along New River, at Floras Lake, and at Lost Lake is a significant safety concern since these areas are focal points for other recreational pursuits.

- New River continues to be attractive to visitors for traditional uses such as waterfowl hunting and fishing. At the same time, the area provides outstanding opportunities for low-impact recreation activities, such as wildlife viewing, hiking, canoeing and kayaking, and picnicking. Balancing the needs of all user groups in a compatible way is necessary.

- Manage for specific recreation opportunity settings to ensure a quality experience for visitors.

Planned Actions

General

- Recreation management will primarily focus on the Storm Ranch and Floras Lake areas of the ACEC with a secondary recreational management emphasis at the Fourmile Creek and Lost Lake sites.

- Visitors will be encouraged to use established roads, trails, fishing areas, and other primary use areas (e.g., learning center, boat launches, wildlife viewing platform, and picnic areas).

- New River will be managed to provide two recreational opportunity settings – roaded natural and semi-primitive non-motorized.

Recreational Activities

- Limit use of motorized vehicles within the ACEC to designated roads and parking areas.

- Accommodate low-impact, non-motorized activities, such as: wildlife observation, nature study, hiking, walking, jogging, photography, picnicking, canoeing and kayaking, fishing, bicycling, and horseback riding.

- Allow camping for educational, research, or other work-related purposes. Camping will require a permit with a two-week advance notice. Camp stoves will be allowed, but no open fires are permitted except by special arrangement.

- Allow primitive beach camping by special recreation permit at a designated site within the ACEC for long-distance backpackers hiking the Oregon Coast Trail. A Special Recreation Permit system will be developed for this purpose by a BLM interdisciplinary team. Permit conditions will require the permittee to abide by stipulations designed to ensure protection of ACEC values (e.g., nesting snowy plovers during the summer). The permit will include educational materials that emphasize low-impact use of the area. Coordinate with OPRD and Coos and Curry County Parks Departments to implement the permit system.

- For public safety reasons, close BLM lands north of Croft Lake outlet and at Floras Lake to hunting. Waterfowl hunting along New River south of Croft Lake outlet on BLM lands is allowed. Hunters are encouraged to dismantle temporary blinds after use and properly dispose of all spent shotgun shells.

- In cooperation with ODFW, monitor hunting usage within the New River ACEC to determine if excessive impacts are occurring. Address issues as they arise to prevent undesired conditions.

- Discourage uses that are loud, disruptive to wildlife, interfere with the life cycle of any plant or animal, pollute or damage the area, or involve soil disturbance.

- Large group activities that are not compatible with the goals and objectives of the ACEC will be discouraged due to concerns for the natural and cultural resources and the recreation settings of the area.

- At Floras Lake, maintain year-round, non-motorized access across the footbridge at the lake outlet. Manage access and recreational use of adjacent ACEC lands to ensure compatibility with natural and cultural resource values.

- Direct the public to comply with seasonal dry-sand restrictions along the foredune during the Western Snowy Plover nesting season (March 15 through September15). This includes directing the public by posting informational and regulatory signs, physically delineating sensitive breeding areas, and providing on-site staff. Breeding areas will be delineated on both the beach and river sides of the foredune to inform hikers and boaters of the restrictions.

- Surface disturbing activities that result from digging up detected articles with a metal detector are prohibited (CFR 8365.1-5). However, the use of metal detectors is not prohibited on BLM lands unless expressing prohibited within a designated area by a supplementary rule. If metal detecting results in any ground disturbance at New River, a supplementary rule will be established to prohibit their use within ACEC.

Recreation Use

- Implement the monitoring and evaluation guidelines detailed in Appendix H to manage recreation use so that impacts to the natural setting are avoided. This includes a visitor use monitoring plan to understand changing trends in visitation, a survey to understand the quality of visitors' experience and their receptiveness to interpretive and educational programs. If monitoring shows a type of recreation is causing undesired resource damage or disturbance, then management actions will be employed to lessen or eliminate the condition.

Actions Accomplished or On-going

- BLM has published supplementary rules for recreation management of the New River ACEC in the Federal Register to implement restrictions, closures, and prohibited acts for the area. These include: prohibiting the use of off-highway vehicles, camping without a permit, collecting forest products and animals, allowing pets off leash; and establishing a seasonal beach closure at Floras Lake to protect the Western Snowy Plover (Vol. 61, No. 71, April 11, 1996).

- BLM revised dry-sand closures along the ocean beach during the Western Snowy Plover nesting season via Federal Register Notice Vol. 69, No. 70, April 12, 2004. This revision states that public access to Western Snowy Plover nesting areas within the ACEC shall be seasonally restricted from March 15 through September 15. These areas include the dry upper portion of the beach (above the mean high tide line) to the deflation plain east of the foredune in all portions of ACEC with the exception of BLM land located in the south 0.6 miles of T. 31 S., R. 15 W., Section 8, and the south

0.25 mile of T. 30 S., R. 15 W., Section 28. In the event that plovers nest within the ACEC not closed by this notice, BLM will exclose the nest(s), post the immediate area closed, and rope around it to limit disturbance.

- BLM has developed an on-going monitoring and evaluation process to guide recreational use management at New River in order to avoid unacceptable impacts to the natural resource and recreation settings (i.e., roaded natural and semi-primitive non-motorized settings) of the area (Appendix H). This process is similar to the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) planning system developed by the U.S. Forest Service for wilderness areas (Stankey et al. 1985). In order to adapt the LAC process to management at New River, only certain components of the framework have been incorporated. The intent remains the same: to maintain an appropriate balance between protecting resource values and providing recreational opportunities for the visiting public.

- BLM has posted general informational and regulatory signs at public access points throughout the ACEC to inform visitors about proper use of the area.

Environmental Education and Interpretation

Objective 5 – Promote awareness and appreciation for New River's many resource values, especially those significant to its ACEC designation; also foster a "Leave No Trace" / "Minimum Impact" land use ethic and similar attitudes in visitors at New River.

Reasons for Action

- Environmental education and interpretation will encourage responsible use of the New River area, thereby reducing resource degradation and vandalism. Special emphasis will be placed on educating visitors about special status species and rare habitats.

- Education and interpretation enhances the visitors' experience.

- Education and interpretation is necessary to communicate the uniqueness of the New River ACEC and BLM's management goals to visitors.

- Visitors who are aware of the area's uniqueness have a greater sense of stewardship and provide public and political support for the New River ACEC.

- Environmental education and interpretation can be used as a management tool for accomplishing visitor use and resource protection objectives.

Programs

The intent is to provide a spectrum of environmental education and interpretive activities for visitors to New River. BLM envisions programs at New River that encourage interaction with the landscape where learning is inspired and impacts are minimized, and where visitors leave with greater insights and an interest to learn more. The three broad objectives for environmental education are (1) to foster clear awareness of and concern about economic, social, political, and ecological interdependence in urban and rural areas; (2) to provide every person with opportunities to acquire the knowledge, values, attitudes,

commitment, and skills needed to protect and improve the environment; and (3) to create new patterns of behavior of individuals, groups, and society as a whole towards the environment.

The Ellen Warring Learning Center, dedicated in May 2001, provides a focal point for both interpretation and environmental education at New River. The learning center was designed in part to help meet program needs by providing space for a library and group gatherings, interpretive displays, storage of field equipment used by both naturalists and researchers, and living quarters for people conducting programs and/or research on site.

Environmental Education and Interpretive Themes

The environmental education and interpretation conducted at New River will continue to be planned and implemented according to the following themes:

Theme #1: The New River landscape is an intricate web of related parts that is constantly changing due to natural and human actions.

> **Topics:** human history · natural history · system dynamics · relationships · ecosystem concepts · plants and animals found at New River

Theme #2: Biodiversity is like putting money in the bank: it secures a healthy future for all of us, and is part of what makes the New River ACEC unique.

> **Topics:** biodiversity · threatened and endangered species · human impacts · ecosystem concept · habitats · interrelationships · introduced species · weeds · management goals · range

Theme #3: Good stewardship is critical in maintaining the health and integrity of New River.

> **Topics:** appropriate behavior · Watchable Wildlife how-to's · "Leave No Trace" / "Minimum Impact" outdoor ethic · management support and challenges · how visitors can get involved

Planned Actions

- Finalize the draft prospectus for environmental education and interpretation. Use its recommendations when developing and conducting programs and interpretive materials.
- Hire a seasonal interpreter, when feasible, to lead guided walks, assist with environmental education programs, and to staff the learning center during peak use periods.
- Special educational opportunities may include, but are not limited to: National Public Lands Day events, tree planting projects, Christmas bird counts, or similar activities that involve the public in benefiting New River.
- Provide interpretive signs at key locations throughout the ACEC to better educate visitors about the uniqueness of the area.
- Keep the web site on educational and interpretive opportunities at New River updated.

- Evaluate the effectiveness of environmental education programs and interpretive materials on a regular basis, and make modifications as necessary. This should include a monitoring and evaluation process to ensure programs do not result in unacceptable impacts to the area (i.e., determine appropriate group size, frequency, duration, location, season, and types of activities).

- Ensure that any interpretation which deals with cultural or paleo-environmental history is coordinated with interested Indian tribes and the Coos Bay District Archaeologist.

- Rotate or replace interpretive displays as needed. Where applicable develop supplemental materials to support interpretation and environmental education, such as trail guides, brochures, and educational kits.

Actions Accomplished or On-going

- A draft prospectus for environmental education and interpretation was written according to the guidelines given in the original New River ACEC Management Plan. Along with identifying goals for interpretation and environmental education, the plan includes general recommendations for New River, as well as site-specific information for each of the four public access areas. A survey was conducted to determine user groups, visitor demographics, potential opportunities, and need. The prospectus is meant to be flexible to management and visitor needs, and should be updated on a regular basis. Implementation of the plan will depend on funding, staffing, and partnership opportunities.

- Continue to host field trips for local elementary and middle schools at New River for students to learn about the unique natural environment of the area.

Bangor Elementary School students enjoying a field trip to New River.

- A feasibility study to address the educational potential, consistency with ACEC objectives, and the need for a research/learning facility was completed as part of the Coastal Environments Learning Network (CELN) Feasibility Assessment. It was determined that a large facility complex was not appropriate or needed at New River.

- A variety of interpretive displays have been developed and installed in the Ellen Warring Learning Center. Seasonal interpreters have been hired in past summers to staff the center and provide guided hikes for visitors.

- BLM hosts an annual National Public Lands Day event at New River to provide an opportunity for the public to volunteer their time working on restoration projects within the ACEC. In 2002, volunteers assisted with the removal of abandoned barbed-wire fences throughout Storm Ranch. In 2003, over 50 volunteers from local communities participated in a coastal dune restoration project at New River that involved the removal of European beach grass in habitat used by the Western Snowy Plover for nesting.

National Public Lands Day volunteers removing European beach grass to restore coastal dune habitat at New River.

- Interpretive signs have been developed and installed at key locations throughout the ACEC, including: a kiosk at the entrance area of Storm Ranch, the boat launch, Muddy Lake, Floras Lake, and along certain trails.

- BLM has developed a website for New River that provides the public with general information about the area, recreational opportunities, management goals and objectives, announcements, and a detailed environmental education guide for students and teachers. The website address is: www.or.blm.gov/coosbay/newriver.

Site Administration and Development

Objective 6 – Provide adequate use supervision, visitor facilities, services, signing, and programs to protect resources and support planned visitor use activities and levels.

Reasons for Action

- Visitation to the New River area is expected to grow as more people become aware of the area, and as population and tourism along the southern Oregon Coast increase.

- Facilities, designated roads and trails, signs, and other management tools (e.g., on-site personnel, regulations, permits, etc.) which direct recreational use ultimately reduce resource damage and can prevent future damage from occurring.

- Cooperative management between agencies is needed to enhance law enforcement support for the area.

Planned Actions

Structures and Facilities at Storm Ranch

- Add two benches inside the wildlife viewing platform at Muddy Lake and add cedar shingles to the roof (rather than lattice) to allow for use during inclement weather.

Trail System

- Re-route a short section of the Huckleberry Hill Trail to take advantage of a ridge-top overlook offering outstanding views of New River and the ocean. This re-route would be across an open sand dune and requires no construction or clearing of vegetation. In addition, visitors are already using this route to gain better views than the trail currently offers.

- If damage occurs from heavy foot, bicycle, or horse traffic, such as erosion or rutting, BLM may need to protect wet sections of trails with boardwalks, install water bars, or surface with wood chips. BLM may also restrict use of the area by limiting the number of visitors or re-designating trail use if chronic problems occur or if the combination of user groups results in conflicts.

- Coordinate with State Parks and Coos County to connect the Lost Lake Trail with an existing trail located on their lands that leads to New River. Cooperatively manage the trail system for non-motorized recreational activities. Coordinate with adjacent landowners regarding compatible management of the Oregon Coast Trail and recreational use on New River.

- Existing trails located on future acquired lands may be modified or maintained so long as they meet goals and objectives of the ACEC (i.e., compatible with protecting natural and cultural resources and the recreation settings of the area).

Directional and Regulatory Signs

- Inventory signs currently installed throughout the ACEC and develop a database to streamline maintenance.

- Install and maintain signs informing visitors to respect property boundaries and the privacy of adjacent residents at key locations, especially at the Lost Lake and Fourmile Creek access points.

User Fees and Permits

- Day-use and/or facility use fees may be established in the future to offset operational and maintenance costs for the ACEC. This could be accomplished under the auspices of the Fee Demonstration Program.

- For the purpose of resource protection, special recreation permits singly or in conjunction with a day-use fee may be established to better manage visitor use.

- A process for accepting voluntary donations may be established to support visitor-related programs and projects at New River.

Publicity

- Due to the unique resource values at New River, use an interdisciplinary process to carefully evaluate how any future publicity of the site by the BLM may impact ACEC values.

- BLM will not actively promote the New River ACEC via brochures or other media intended to attract large numbers of visitors, but when the public does request information, provide information that also includes sensitive resource concerns and rules of the area.

- Consider how publicizing New River in private guide books or other similar materials might affect visitation to ensure that overuse does not occur.

- Inform the public of BLM-sponsored activities and events at New River using local newspapers, flyers, mailings, and other related types of media. Such activities and events include: National Public Lands Day, tree planting projects, guided nature hikes, and other educational or volunteer-related projects that build public support for the ACEC.

Law Enforcement

- Enhance law enforcement at New River through annual coordination meetings with other agencies and interested groups.

- Patrol the New River area regularly. Increase the frequency of patrols during the snowy plover nesting season, the peak illegal mushroom gathering season, and high visitor use periods.

Hazardous Materials Management (HMM)

- District Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan applies to any spill or dumping of hazardous materials at New River that requires emergency response activities and removal.

- Federal Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, Executive Order 128.56, and Secretarial Order 3158 govern procedures for spill prevention, waste management and minimization. Activities on the ACEC should reflect the use of low environmental impact chemicals and substances, with minimal retention of any necessary hazardous materials on site. Site-specific activity plans shall be reviewed for potential HMM impacts. Employee awareness training should be kept current.

- Public Education and awareness of HMM should be integrated into outreach programs.

Fire Management

- Recognize the role of fire in the natural environment and utilize controlled burns to enhance desired habitat conditions within the ACEC.

- Suppress fires that do not meet ACEC goals and objectives, or that threatening life or adjacent private lands.

- Reduce potential adverse impacts to ACEC resources, public/private facilities and developments, and users by annually identifying specific fire tactics and strategies for the ACEC. Specific actions may include managing and manipulating brush and other fuels within the ACEC adjacent to these facilities and developments; selectively thinning fuels surrounding facilities to reduce fire hazard; and constructing a firebreak to reduce flammability, intensity, and rate of spread near or adjacent to private land.

- To meet fire suppression needs, place all existing ACEC land and future acquisitions east of New River under the State Protection Contract.

- Reduce the potential for accidental human-caused fires by prohibiting open campfires, except by special permit. Provide visitors with information, such as signs and brochures that inform them about the dangers of fire and ways to prevent human-caused fires.

Actions Accomplished or On-going

Facilities and other Infrastructure

- All of the original structures that were located at Storm Ranch have been removed (e.g., ranch house, barn, stable, and arena) and new BLM facilities have been constructed in their place (e.g., learning center, storage building/shop, well/pump house, and restrooms).

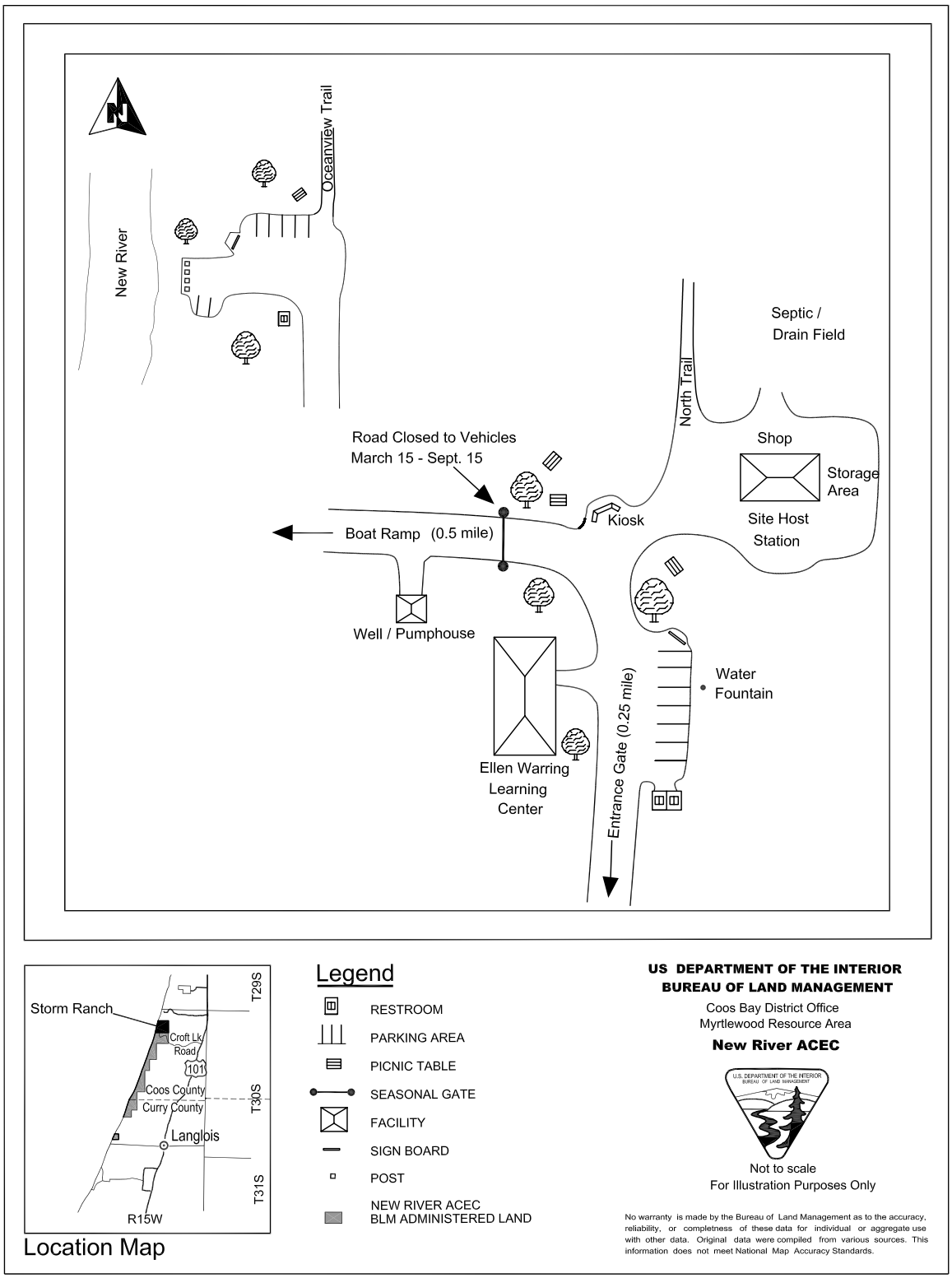
- Maintain the Ellen Warring Learning Center for environmental education, research, and administrative purposes.

- Maintain the storage building/shop at the Storm Ranch entrance area for storing supplies, maintenance equipment, and other items necessary for site administration and resource protection.

- Maintain the public water system (including maintenance of the well/pump house, drinking fountain, and septic system) within the developed area of Storm Ranch.

- Maintain one vault toilet at the Storm Ranch boat launch area and two vault toilets at the entrance area.

Figure 5. Storm Ranch Entrance and Boat Launch Areas



- Maintain the road at Storm Ranch. The entrance road to Storm Ranch and the main parking lot has been chip-sealed and should continue to be maintained this way. The gravel road from the entrance area to the boat launch area may also need to be chip-sealed in the future to reduce maintenance, improve accessibility for the disabled, and for dust abatement. Speed bumps may be necessary if speeding becomes a problem.

- Maintain existing parking lots at the Storm Ranch entrance and boat launch areas; East and West Muddy Lake, Floras Lake, Fourmile Creek, and Lost Lake Trailheads. The parking lot at Floras Lake is jointly maintained by the Curry County Parks Department.

- Maintain boat launches at Storm Ranch and Floras Lake outlet. The boat launch at Storm Ranch is designed for non-motorized access only. See Objective 7, Access.

- Maintain a few picnic tables at the Storm Ranch entrance and boat launch area. Include one or more picnic tables that is wheelchair accessible.

- Maintain the wildlife viewing platform at Muddy Lake.

- Continue to remove old barbed wire fences throughout the Storm Ranch area for wildlife safety.

Trail System

- Maintain existing trails within ACEC based on the types of use they are designed for, degree of difficultly, and level of accessibility. See Table 5: New River ACEC Trail System.

- Maintain directional fences along trails and other key locations for visitor use management.

- Maintain a primitive trail at the Fourmile Creek portion of the ACEC. This small parcel provides a put-in and take-out point for kayaks and canoes when vehicular access to the Storm Ranch boat launch is closed (March 15 through September 15). Boat access at this parcel requires a quarter-mile portage from the parking lot to New River.

- Maintain a primitive trail along the south side of Lost Lake and across the sand dunes, west to New River.

- Maintain minimum trail widths and heights to be consistent with each trail's designed uses. For example, branches should be trimmed higher on trails that allow horseback riders and wider on the trail that provides wheelchair access.

- Maintain foot-bridges and boardwalks to provide public access and minimize impacts across waterways and wetlands (e.g., Floras Lake, Lost Lake, and Muddy Lake Trails).

- Manage recreation use along the ocean beach and New River to minimize impact to ACEC values. See Table 6: Other Linear Recreation Use Areas Affecting the New River ACEC.

Table 5. New River ACEC Trail System

Name	Description	Designed For	Difficulty	Length
North Trail	Trail begins northeast of the learning center and provides access to Huckleberry Hill and Ridge Trails. This trail takes visitors by the old corrals of Storm Ranch, now bordered by manzanita and rhododendron. The trail is mostly flat and the surface varies from compacted soil and gravel to loose sand.	Foot, Horseback, Bicycle	Easy	0.2 mile
Huckleberry Hill Trail	Trail connects North Trail to Oceanview Trail and passes through meadow, forest, and shrub habitats. Trail rolls over some of New River's largest dunes with an excellent view of the ocean. Trail surface is primarily loose sand.	Foot, Horseback, Bicycle	Moderate, Difficult for bicyclists due to loose sand	0.4 mile
Ridge Trail	Trail passes over a large stabilized dune, winding through a shrub community of salal, manzanita, and huckleberry. The Coast Range is visible from some points. Portions of the trail are sandy.	Foot, Horseback, Bicycle	Moderate, Difficult for bicyclists due to loose sand	0.2 mile
Oceanview Trail	Trail travels through a dense forest along New River and connects with Huckleberry Hill Trail. A short side trail takes visitors to an overlook for views of the ocean and river. The terrain is relatively flat and the trail has a hard-packed surface.	Foot, Horseback, Bicycle	Easy, Difficult for bicyclists due to loose sand	0.2 mile
Oceanview Spur Trail	This short side trail takes visitors to an overlook for views of the ocean and river. The trail surface is mostly loose sand.	Foot, Horseback, Bicycle	Easy	0.1 mile
West Muddy Lake Trail	Trail begins at River Road and leads to the wildlife viewing platform at Muddy Lake. The trail follows an old road built by Jack Storm that has been modified for handi-capped accessibility. A small boardwalk has also been constructed across a wetland. The trail is relatively flat with a hard-packed surface.	Foot, Horseback, Bicycle, Wheelchair (universally accessible)	Easy	0.3 mile

Name	Description	Designed For	Difficulty	Length
West Muddy Lake Spur Trail	Trail begins off of West Muddy Lake Trail and leads to a viewing area along New River. The trail follows an old dirt road with a flat, hard-packed surface. The end of the trail is sandy and may require traversing driftwood to access the river.	Foot, Horseback, Bicycle	Easy	0.2 mile
East Muddy Lake Trail	Trail begins a short distance down River Road from the learning center. The trail crosses a footbridge and enters into a wide meadow before passing through a forest on the way to the wildlife viewing platform at Muddy Lake. The surface is firm with grass, gravel, or dirt substrate. This trail is wheelchair accessible for more advanced users.	Foot, Horseback, Bicycle, Wheelchair	Easy, Difficult for wheelchair users due to rough, uneven terrain	0.4 mile
Old Bog Trail	Trail begins off East Muddy Lake Trail in the open meadow and continues through forest and shrub habitats. Vistas of the Coast Range are along the trail. The trail ends at the edge of the historic Westmoor Cranberry Bogs. The trail has some steep sections with loose sand.	Foot	Moderate	0.3 mile
Floras Lake Trail	The Floras Lake Trail begins at the lower parking lot of the Boice-Cope County Campground. It crosses a footbridge over the outlet of Floras Lake and continues around the west side of Floras Lake to the ocean. The trail connects with the State Park trail system at Blacklock Point. The trail surface is loose sand and portions are inundated during the winter.	Foot, Horseback, Bicycles	Moderate, Difficult for bicyclists due to loose sand	1.0 mile
Floras Lake Spur Trail	Trail begins about one quarter mile west of the footbridge across the outlet of Floras Lake. This spur trail crosses a large coastal meadow and provides the most direct access to the beach. The surface is loose sand.	Foot, Horseback, Bicycles	Moderate, Difficult for bicyclists due to loose sand	0.2 mile

Name	Description	Designed For	Difficulty	Length
Fourmile Creek Trail	Trail begins at a small gravel parking lot along side Lower Fourmile Road. It crosses a wetland meadow leading to New River. The trail is relatively flat and its surface consists mostly of dense grasses.	Foot, Portage for canoe or kayak	Moderate	0.2 mile
Lost Lake Trail	Trail begins at a small parking lot on the east side of Lost Lake. It follows along the southern edge of the lake through a mature forest. On the west side of the lake, the trail traverses a series of large sand dunes to the western edge of the ACEC. The trail then crosses State Park and Coos County lands to New River. The beginning of the trail is flat with a hard-packed surface. The western portion has steep sections with loose sand.	Foot	Moderate	1.0 mile (BLM) 1.5 miles (total)

Table 6. Other Linear Recreation Use Areas Affecting the New River ACEC

Name	Description	Designed For	Difficulty	Length
Oregon Coast Beach Trail	This trail is managed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The New River section of this trail follows the wet-sand portion of the beach from the south side of the Coquille River mouth at Bandon to Cape Blanco State Park. It is 22 miles long and offers opportunities for a semi-primitive hiking experience. Most use takes place during the summer, when stream crossings are easier. Strong north winds during the summer encourage hikers to travel south. Seven miles of this trail borders the New River ACEC where special rules apply and a recreation permit is required for primitive camping.	Foot	Difficult	7 miles (BLM) 25 miles (total)

Name	Description	Designed For	Difficulty	Length
New River	This non-motorized float trip along New River begins at Boice-Cope County Park at the outlet of Floras Lake and ends at either the Storm Ranch boat launch or at the Fourmile Creek take-out point, distances of eight and ten miles respectively. During the winter, most boaters travel from south to north taking advantage of the current and the winds. During the summer, low-water conditions, strong north winds, dry-sand closures along the foredune, and vehicular access restrictions at Storm Ranch make use more difficult.	Non-motorized boats	Moderately Difficult	8 or 10 miles

Directional and Regulatory Signs

- Maintain directional signs on Highway 101 to the Storm Ranch portion of the ACEC. These quarter-mile turn-off signs have a hiking symbol located below the words, "New River." The hiking symbol replaced the original binoculars logo since a majority of visitors to New River were expecting a roadside overlook. This change is expected to reduce turn-around vehicular traffic to the area. See Appendix H for more information about this logo change.

- Maintain the entrance sign to the Storm Ranch portion of the ACEC.

- Maintain informational and regulatory signs at key public use areas throughout the ACEC (i.e., entrance areas, trailheads, boat launches, seasonally-closed snowy plover nesting areas, etc.)

- Maintain trail markers/directional signs along designated trails.

- Maintain signs along the ACEC boundaries that state the area is closed to off-road vehicles.

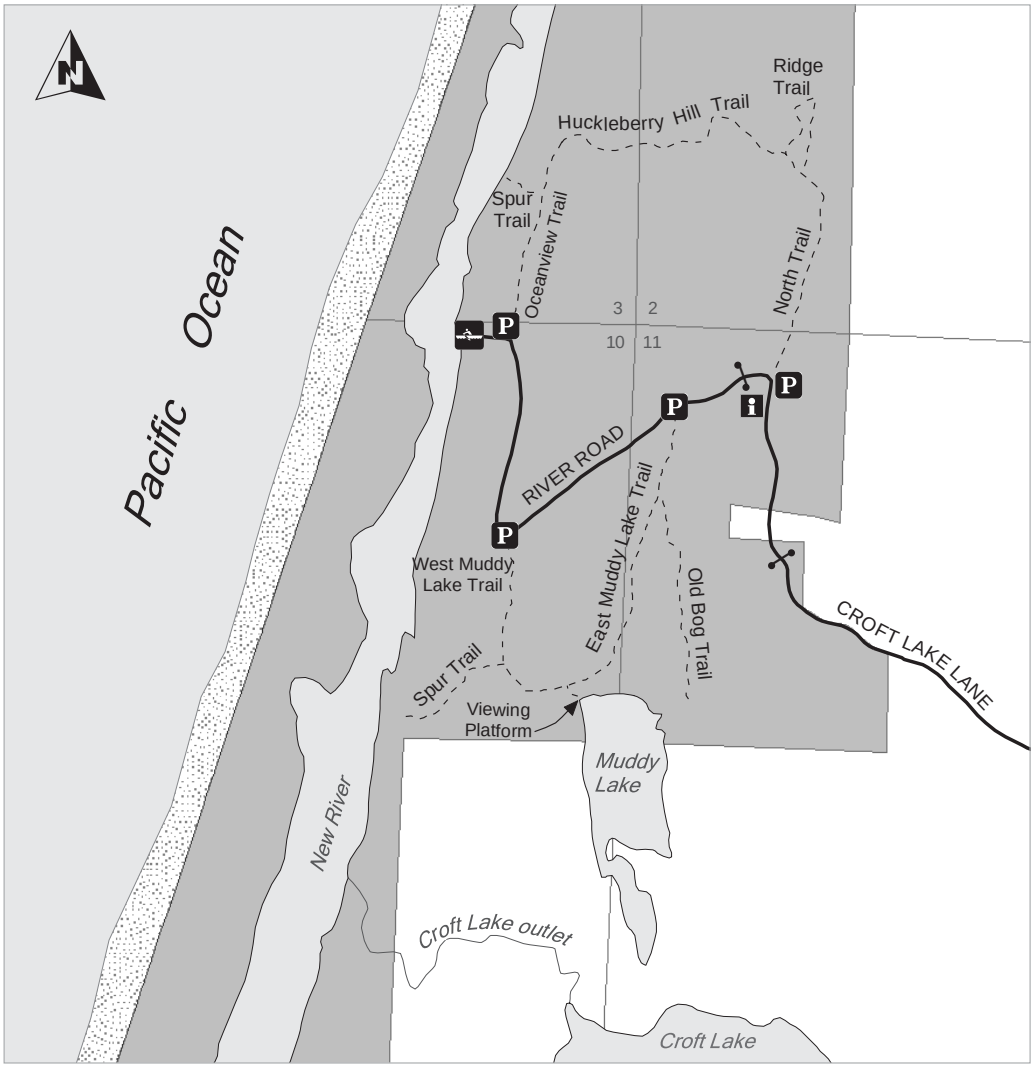
Management Personnel and Site Host

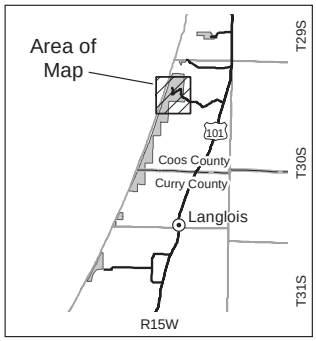
- Continue to have a BLM staff person whose primary duty is to coordinate management of the ACEC.

- Continue to have a volunteer site host stationed at Storm Ranch to provide information to the public, encourage visitors to comply with regulations, perform minor care-taking responsibilities, and monitor visitor use.

- Continue to have a person perform routine maintenance duties within the ACEC.

- Continue to have a seasonal interpreter lead guided walks and assist with education programs during peak summer visitation.





Location Map

Legend

- Parking Area
- Learning Center
- Boat Launch
- Gated Road
- Section Line
- Stream
- Trail
- Primary Road
- Water Body
- State-owned Beach Zone 'Wet Sand'
- New River ACEC
- BLM Administered Land

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

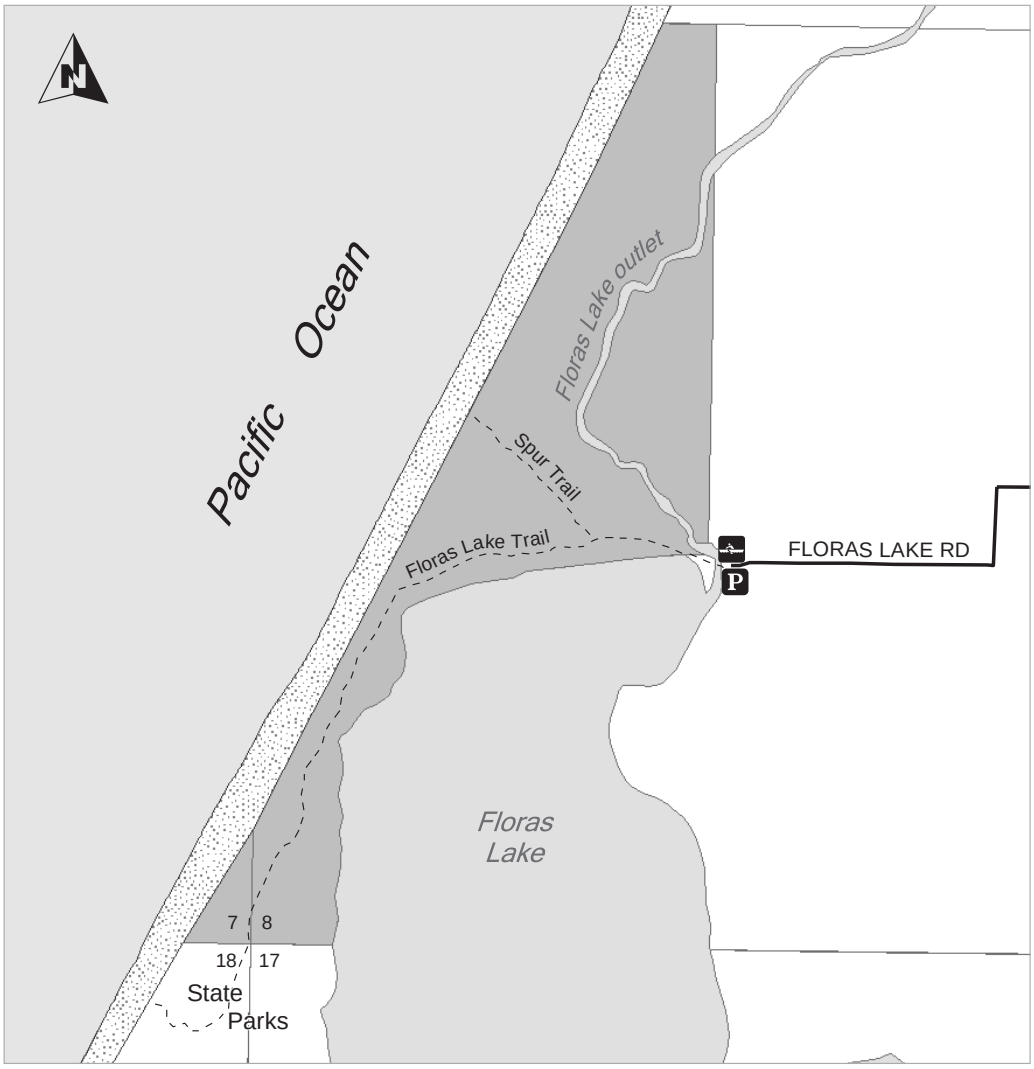
Coos Bay District Office
Myrtlewood Resource Area

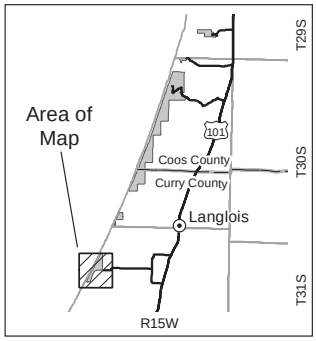
New River ACEC

0 600 1,200 1,800
Feet

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Map 6: Storm Ranch Trails





Location Map

Legend

- Parking Area
- Boat Launch
- Section Line
- Stream
- Trail
- Primary Road
- Water Body
- State-owned Beach Zone 'Wet Sand'
- New River ACEC
- BLM Administered Land

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

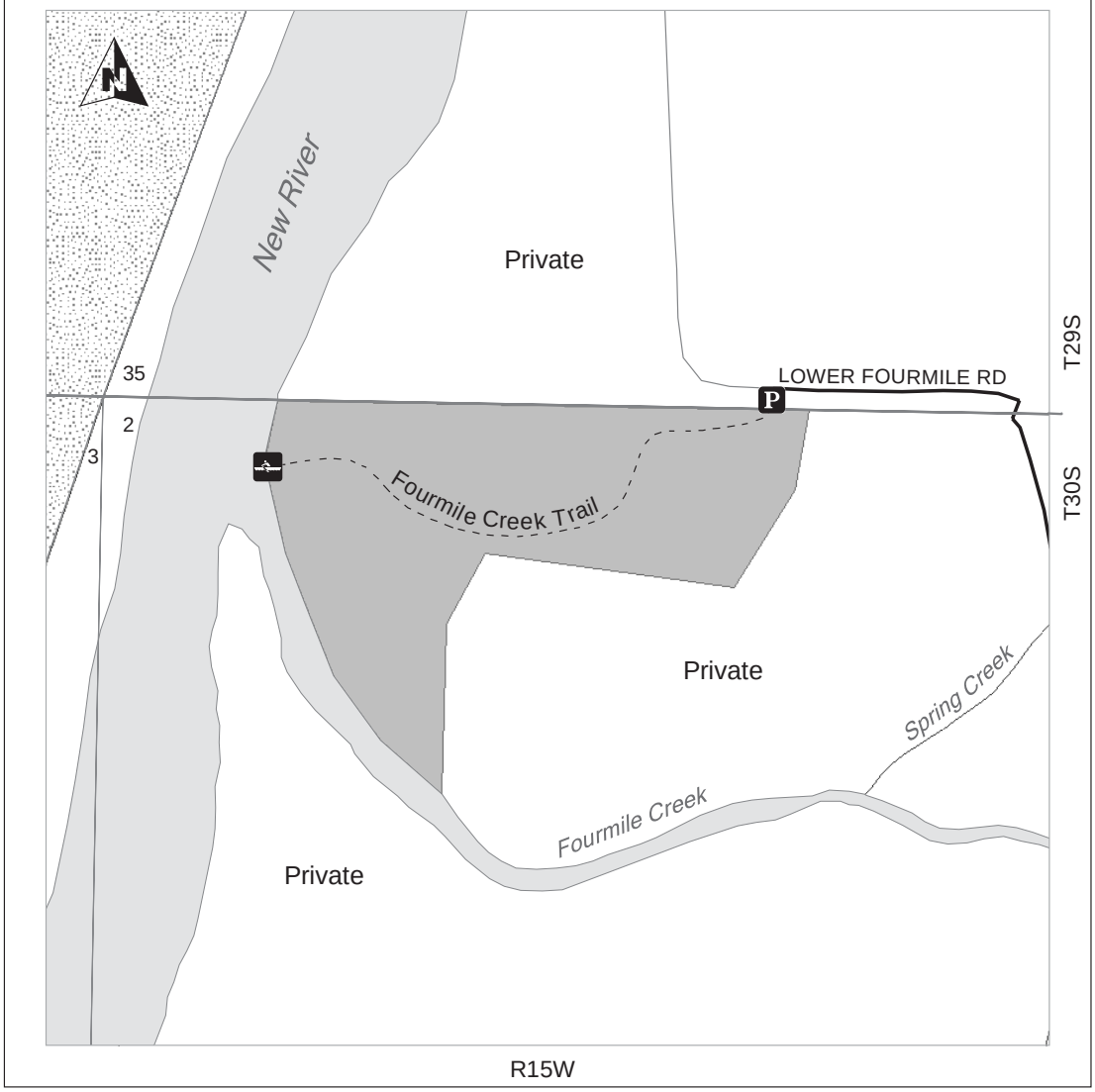
Coos Bay District Office
Myrtlewood Resource Area

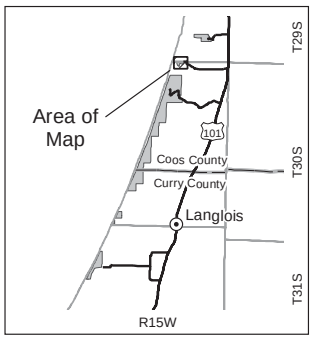
New River ACEC

0 600 1,200 1,800
Feet

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Map 7: Floras Lake Trails





Location Map

Legend

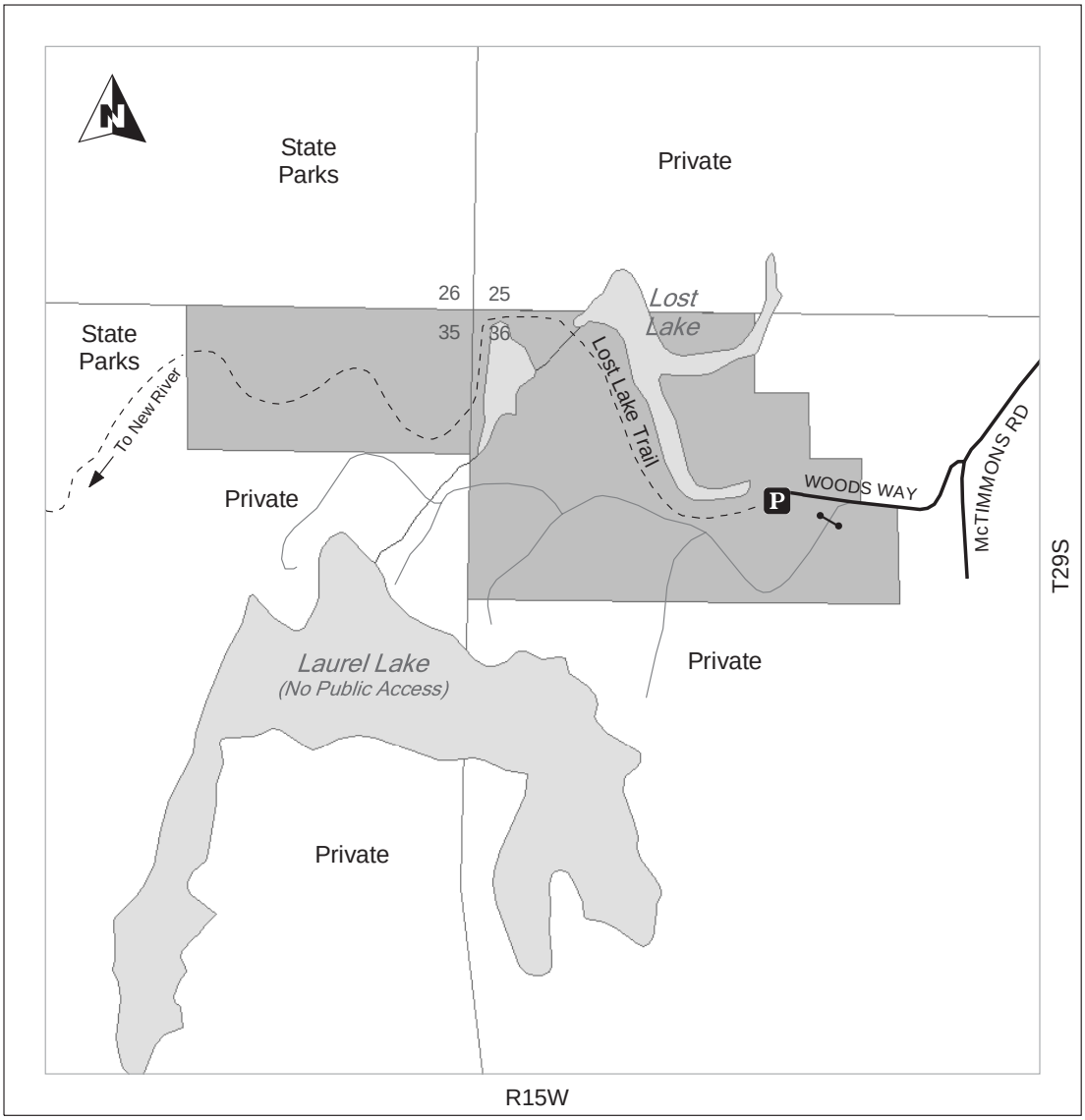
- Parking Area
- Boat Launch
- Section Line
- Stream
- Trail
- Secondary Road
- Primary Road
- Water Body
- State-owned Beach Zone 'Wet Sand'
- New River ACEC
  BLM Administered Land

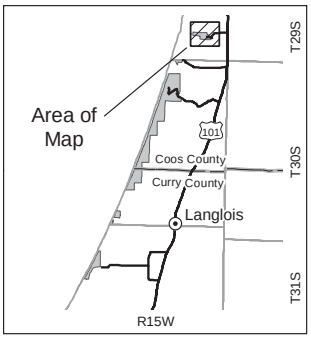
US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District Office
Myrtlewood Resource Area
New River ACEC

0 400 800
Feet

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Map 8: Fourmile Creek Trail





Location Map

Legend

- Parking Area
- Gated Road
- Section Line
- Stream
- Trail
- Primary Road
- Authorized Vehicles Only
- Water Body
- New River ACEC
  BLM Administered Land

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District Office
Myrtlewood Resource Area
New River ACEC

0 500 1,000 1,500
Feet

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Map 9: Lost Lake Trail

Enforcement

- Law enforcement (i.e., patrols and response to problems) is primarily provided by a BLM Ranger and sheriff deputies according to joint Law Enforcement Agreements (LEAs) with Coos and Curry County Sheriff Departments. Additional law enforcement is provided by the Oregon State Police.

- Maintain an updated contact list to be used by the site host and enforcement personnel in case of emergencies or conflict situations.

Access

Objective 7 – Provide reasonable access to visitor use areas and the river with minimal impact on natural and cultural resources and visitor experiences.

Reasons for Action

- Access to New River was historically controlled by a few private landowners, and public access is needed.

- Unmanaged visitation to the New River area could result in degrading the area's natural and cultural resources.

- Off-highway vehicle use negatively impacts the success of the Western Snowy Plover, a federally threatened species, migratory shorebirds, and other coastal dune species.

- Mining access could degrade the scenic and unique resource qualities found at New River.

Planned Actions

General

- Allow public vehicular access to the Storm Ranch boat launch area via River Road from September 16 through March 14. Close the road to public vehicular access during the snowy plover nesting season from March 15 through September 15. The road will remain open to non-motorized use during this time.

- BLM may restrict use of the ACEC by limiting the number of vehicles or visitors to the area if resource damage becomes evident and no other management actions have resolved the problem. Appendix H describes other management actions that would be considered to resolve visitor impacts.

- Access to future acquired lands that qualify for ACEC designation, will be managed under the same goals and objectives unless more stringent protection measures are needed for specific areas designated as Research Natural Areas or Botanical Special Interest Areas.

Actions Accomplished or On-going

- Maintain gates and posts to prevent vehicular access to the following areas:

  a) Entrance gate to Storm Ranch, open daily from sunrise to sunset.

  b) Seasonal gate to the Storm Ranch boat launch area via River Road. This gate is open to vehicular access from September 16 to March 14, but closed to motorized vehicles the remainder of the year. This gate is located at the beginning of River Road adjacent to the learning center.

  c) Permanent posts at the Storm Ranch boat launch to prevent people from driving vehicles to the water's edge or along the banks of New River. These posts are designed to allow visitors easy access to the river by foot. The posts are removable for administrative access for maintenance and emergency purposes only.

  d) Permanent posts at the West Muddy Lake Trailhead. These two posts are designed to allow easy trail access for hikers, bikers, horseback riders, and wheelchair users, but restrict vehicles from accessing the trail. The posts are removable for administrative motorized access for trail maintenance and emergency purposes only.

  e) Permanent gate at the entrance to the old bog at Storm Ranch via Croft Lake Lane. This gate is used primarily by Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative to maintain their powerline easement.

  f) Permanent post at the foot-bridge across Floras Lake outlet. The post is designed to allow easy trail access for hikers, but restricts vehicles from accessing the trails and beach. The post is removable for administrative motorized access for maintenance or emergency purposes.

  g) Permanent gate at the Fourmile Creek parcel to block vehicle access to the wetland meadow. A pedestrian bypass around the gate will be installed for easier trail access.

  h) Permanent gate at the Lost Lake parcel to prevent non-authorized vehicles from accessing Woods Way beyond the public parking area.

OHV Designation

- Continue to enforce the off-highway vehicle limitation on all lands within the ACEC (including future acquisitions). Exceptions include: access on designated roads and parking lots; administrative access; and special permits for scientific research, monitoring, resource protection, and/or restoration projects (per Federal Register Notice Vol. 61, No. 71 dated April 11, 1996).

Mineral Withdrawal

- All BLM administered New River lands are closed to locatable (mining claims) and salable (construction sand and gravel) mining; approved April 1993. Future acquired lands will also be closed to these forms of mining.

Monitoring and Research

Objective 8 – Facilitate improved management of the New River area through monitoring and research to learn more about the natural and cultural resources of the area.

Reasons for Action

- Monitoring offers a means of ensuring compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.
- Filling existing information gaps enables the BLM to better manage the area in the future.
- Evaluating existing management strategies provides feedback to determine the success in meeting established objectives.
- Broaden human understanding of the area.
- Recovery needs for threatened and endangered species in the New River area must be identified.
- Conflicts between recreation activities and natural functions at New River need to be identified.
- Hydrologic functions at New River should be better defined.
- The dynamics of coastal ecosystems are not fully understood.
- Fisheries information could define Chinook salmon in New River as a unique population (that would ensure protection under the ESA should the need arise).

Planned Actions

A number of project-specific monitoring actions are incorporated with the objectives listed previously in this chapter. The reason for organizing the document in this way is to consolidate corresponding information together, rather than have it spread throughout the plan. However, some monitoring actions do not correspond to any specific objective or are too general. These actions are listed below along with all of the research actions.

Research actions are not incorporated with the other objectives, since they are not a requirement of the management plan. BLM fully supports research at New River and is willing to provide opportunities for other agencies and organizations interested in conducting research programs, as long as they are consistent with the goals and objectives of the ACEC. Research actions are ideas for projects that would broaden our understanding of the area.

General

- Develop a comprehensive New River ACEC Monitoring Plan that identifies priorities, objectives, methodologies, guidelines, data administration, management, and schedule of activities.
- Establish New River research priorities and sponsor research through an organized program.

- Seek funding for research projects by preparing grant proposals, in coordination with a "friends" group, other local groups, state and federal agencies, academic institutions, and private consultation firms.

- Provide opportunities for outside research projects consistent with the goals and objectives of the ACEC.

- Coordinate with private neighboring landowners regarding research projects that are adjacent or associated with their lands.

Archaeology

- Determine dates of occupation and the use and importance of sites by instituting a program for gathering and analyzing material from sites, possibly using carbon-14 testing and hydration of obsidian samples.

- Determine past environmental conditions by analyzing sediments, possibly including pollen and macrofossils.

- Monitor known cultural resources for evidence of degradation and continue to pursue locating unknown cultural resources that exist within the ACEC.

Botany

- Determine the plant associations and prepare a vegetation map at New River using the National Vegetation Classification System (NVCS) in order to obtain a complete picture of the diversity of plant associations both naturally-occurring and that originated from human activity. The NVCS is a hierarchical classification system that standardizes vegetation classification in the United States. Data may be collected from sample plots along permanent transects as well as larger reconnaissance plots scattered throughout the ACEC.

- Monitor long-term changes to vegetation due to plant succession and disturbance processes.

- Determine biomass production of matsutake (*Tricholoma magnivelare*) mushrooms and quantify its importance to wildlife. Examine the fungus' response to environmental conditions such as temperature, moisture, soil type, and duff thickness. Assess the impact of illegal collection by humans on the mushroom's productivity and persistence.

- The Final Recovery Plan for the endangered western lily (Guerrant et al. 1998) recommends that research be conducted to: determine patterns of genetic diversity, vegetation control methods, genetic studies, the effects of small and large mammal grazing, insect herbivory, and microbial rot control measures, and demography studies.

- The Final Conservation Strategy for the pink sand-verbena (USDI et al. 2004) recommends that research be conducted on: pathogens and herbivores, plant taxonomy, European beach grass control, population augmentation and reintroduction of additional species native to Oregon beaches and dunes, and population modeling.

Fisheries

- Conduct a comprehensive study of Chinook and coho salmon life history in the New River basin, including out-migration timing, size and growth, and limiting habitat factors.

- Examine the thermal tolerance of New River Chinook salmon. Healthy Chinook salmon smolts have been seined in water that exceeded their theoretical critical thermal maximum.

- Collect genetic (electrophoresis) data on New River Chinook salmon in conjunction with the thermal tolerance study.

- Determine the abundance and distribution of benthic and aquatic invertebrate species in New River, and assess their relative importance to the aquatic food web (minimum two-year study).

- Determine the status and extent of exotic fish in New River and its tributary streams and lakes.

- Compile historical accounts of the activities, fish runs, usage, etc., from long-time local residents and documents available through local libraries and courthouses.

Geology

- Develop a sand movement monitoring plan to determine the effects of the on-going coastal dune restoration project on the foredune and New River. The goal of this restoration project is to remove invasive European beach grass to bring back the historic open sand dune ecosystem.

- Determine if the 50-foot wide buffer of European beach grass established along the east side of the foredune is adequate to maintain a balance between restored open sand habitat and the stability of the New River system. This can be initiated by monitoring of current conditions, as well as establishing varied buffer widths at key locations using European beach grass and/or native plant species with concurrent monitoring.

Hydrology

- Study concurrent adjustments of New River base level, sediment supply, flow, width and depth and other variables in an effort to determine how far north the river mouth will continue to move.

- Define aquatic habitat requirements and identify the stream flows needed to maintain this aquatic habitat. Data will be used to obtain an in-stream flow water right for New River.

- Study the effects that the drawdown rate of near-surface freshwater aquifers for agricultural uses has on surface flow in New River, and the risks of diminishing flow in New River during the summer/fall.

- Evaluate ground water distribution in the New River area relative to coastal dune aquifers.

- Determine what flow levels and duration, in balance with other interrelated hydrologic variables, are necessary to maintain the New River channel.

- Study the effect that a closed mouth with a rapid fall/early winter breakout has on stream function.

- Study the effects of mechanical breaching on New River's width and depth, stability of a continuous river system, and on the estuarine zone.

- Estimate the amount of water storage that can be achieved by improving/developing side-channel riparian/wetland areas.

Wildlife

- Identify limiting factors (i.e., nesting locations, clean water, foraging areas, etc.) and what levels of these limiting factors affect species use of habitats within the ACEC. This may be used to identify hazards or overuse conflicts.

- Research a variety of factors pertaining to Western Snowy Plover biology to better understand recovery needs. Evaluate management strategies to provide the most effective measures to meet recovery goals. Better understand and document human and natural disturbance effects on breeding plovers in the New River area.

- Survey migratory shorebirds and waterfowl in both the spring and fall to better understand the importance of the area and establish baseline information to monitor trend.

Coordination and Cooperation

Objective 9 – Facilitate cooperative management of the New River area to better protect resource values through coordination and collaboration with others.

Reasons for Action

Supporters of BLM's efforts at New River include a variety of state and federal agencies, federally-recognized Native American tribes, county governments, non-profit organizations, institutions, local residents, and adjacent landowners. Without such allies, BLM would have a difficult time garnering support to protect an ecosystem that extends across such a complex pattern of ownerships and jurisdictions. Because of this, it is critical that BLM continues to strengthen existing relationships while pursuing new opportunities for collaboration.

Planned Actions

- Promote ongoing coordination efforts by encouraging establishment of a "Friends of New River" volunteer citizen group.

- Ensure communication by maintaining an updated mailing list of adjacent landowners and people interested in New River management.

- Consult with ODFW pertaining to hunting and fishing regulations. Communicate evidence of overuse to ODFW for them to consider adjustments in current regulations. Coordinate with ODFW on general wildlife management, share information, and partner on habitat restoration work when feasible.

- Coordinate with OPRD, the state agency responsible for managing the ocean shore, regarding issues such as the recovery of threatened species, the Oregon Coast Trail, and illegal OHV use.

- Cooperate with the Snowy Plover Working Team to provide management consistency, share workloads, and leverage funds.

Actions Accomplished or On-going

General

The BLM will continue to coordinate with the following agencies, groups, institutions, and individuals (listed alphabetically with a short description of their involvement at New River):

- *Adjacent landowners* – Collaborate with BLM on land management issues in a way that ensures protection of resource values while maintaining private property rights. See Cooperative Management Agreements below.

- *Berry Botanic Garden* – Monitors an *ex situ* population of the western lily, and carries out seed and bulb collection for the seed bank.

- *Citizens* – Engage citizens who express an interest in New River to assist with projects and other opportunities within the ACEC.

- *Coos and Curry County* – Provide the connection and support between county programs and the BLM. See Cooperative Management Agreements below.

- *Coos and Curry County Sheriff Departments*. – Provide law enforcement support.

- *Coquille Indian Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon* – Protect the cultural heritage of the Native American groups with interests in the New River area.

- *Coquille and South Coast Watershed Associations* – Assist with the development and implementation of restoration projects on BLM and adjacent private lands.

- *Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)* – Coordinates coastal programs and monitors for federal consistency in plans.

- *Institute of Applied Ecology* – Monitors, collects, and distributes pink sand-verbena seeds at New River as part of a Challenge Cost Share project with the BLM.

- *National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS*) – Coordinates marine mammal protection and ocean fisheries management.

- *National Fish & Wildlife Foundation* – Provides funding for outreach efforts. Recently funded an audiovisual presentation about the coastal sand dune ecosystem.

- *Oregon Coast Wetlands Joint Venture* – Lobbies and raises funds for federal wetland acquisition.

- *Oregon Department of Agriculture* – In charge of plant species listed under the Oregon Endangered Species Act and controlling noxious weeds. Involved with study of Wolf's evening-primrose and seaside gilia at New River.

- *Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ*) – Monitors water quality and pollution control.

- *Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)* – Manages and regulates animal populations.

- *Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)* – Monitors changes in beach morphology.

- *Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT*) – Responsible for highway safety and directional signs to New River.

- *Oregon Division of State Lands (ODSL)* – Manages the state-owned seabed (up to three miles offshore) and regulates fill and removal up to the ordinary high tide line.

- *Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB*) – Regulates recreational water use and safety and the licensing of guides and outfitters for the State of Oregon.

- *Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)* – Manages the "wet sand" area up to the ordinary high tide line with ODSL, and has jurisdiction of the "dry sand" up to the statutory vegetation line on state, county, and private lands. Manages the Oregon Coast Beach Trail.

- *Oregon State Police* – Provides enforcement of fish and wildlife laws and all other laws for the State of Oregon.

- *Oregon State University* – Conducts research on the Wolf's evening-primrose and seaside gilia at New River.

- *Oregon/Washington Snowy Plover Working Team* – A consortium of agencies involved in the recovery of the Western Snowy Plover, established by the draft Western Snowy Plover Recovery Plan. Involved agencies include: BLM, USFS, USFWS, APHIS, ODFW, OPRD, and the Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center.

- *Point Reyes Bird Observatory* – Monitors and evaluates shorebird populations in Western U.S.

- *Queen's University, Canada* – Conducts research on the pink sand-verbena.

- *Shoreline Education for Awareness* (SEA) – Assists with interpretive and educational opportunities with the help of their volunteer docents.

- *The Audubon Society, Defenders of Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, and other environmental groups* – Encourage the protection of habitats and species.

- *The Nature Conservancy (TNC)* – Assists with establishing conservation easements and executing acquisitions from willing sellers.

- *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* – Regulates fill and sand removal (from the foredune).

- *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)* – Provides mandatory consultation on Endangered Species Act compliance.

Cooperative Management Agreements

BLM has entered into four cooperative agreements with adjacent private landowners and Curry County to better protect riparian, wetland, and coastal dune habitats adjacent to New River.

Cooperative Management Agreements between the BLM and Adjacent Ranchers

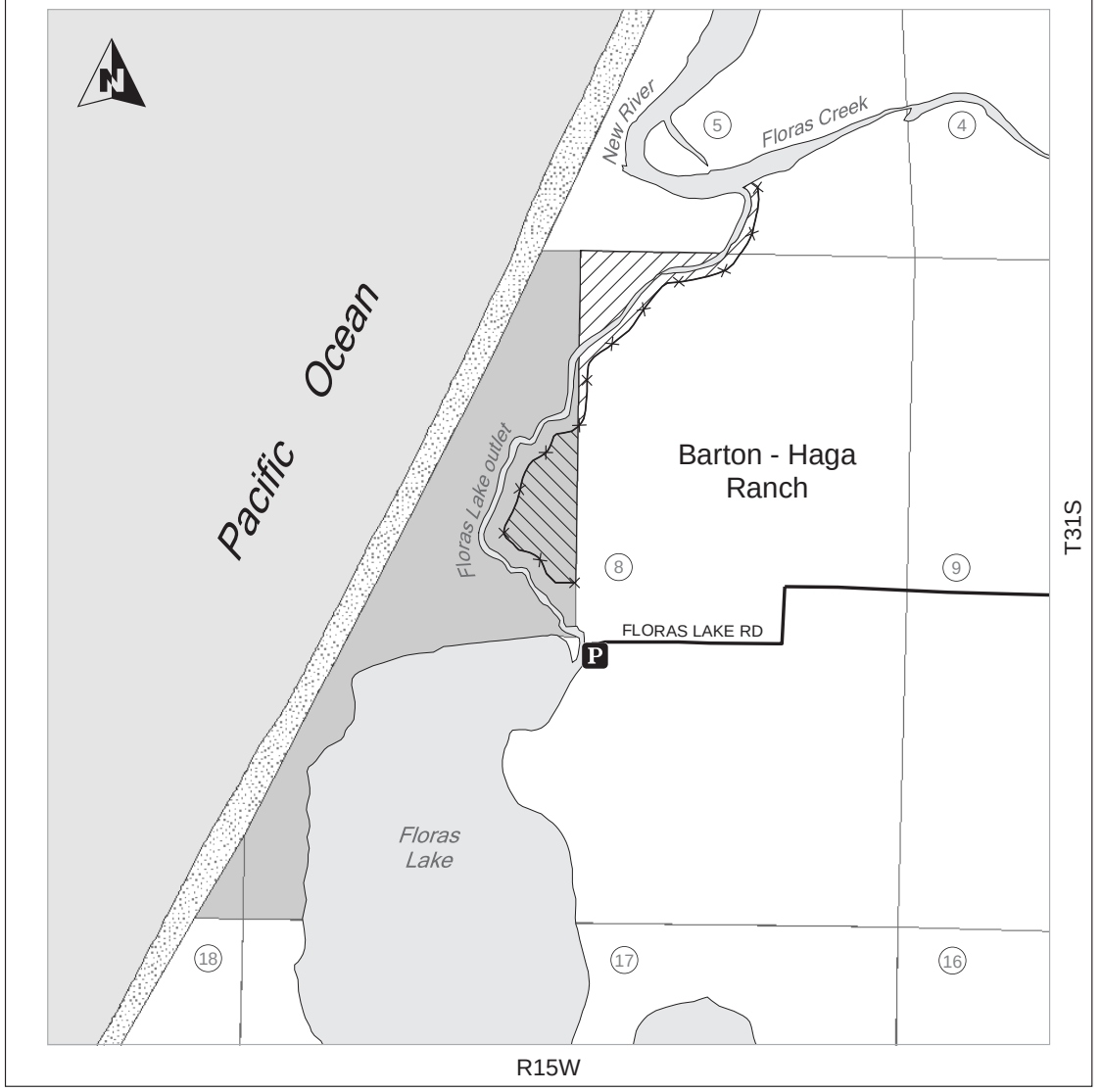
Three cooperative agreements were entered into by the BLM and ranchers adjacent to the New River ACEC. The purpose of these agreements is to adjust livestock grazing practices in order to better protect sensitive riparian and wetland habitats along New River and Floras Lake outlet.

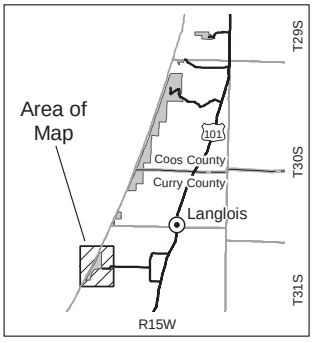
Private ranchers and the BLM own portions of land on both the east and west sides of New River and Floras Lake outlet. Over the years, livestock grazing has occurred regularly along the riparian zone of these waterways on the private ranches. As well, BLM authorized a limited amount of livestock grazing in the ACEC along the river through seasonal grazing leases.

Due to the increasing need to better protect habitats along New River for threatened species, cooperative agreements were established in place of grazing leases to exclude livestock from grazing the riparian zone of the river on portions of private ranch lands and within the ACEC. In exchange for limiting livestock grazing along the river on private lands, the BLM is allowing grazing to occur within the ACEC on designated portions located away from the river corridor. To accomplish this goal, approximately four and a half miles of riparian fence has been constructed across BLM and private property under these new cooperative agreements.

The following maps show the location of these agreements with Barton/Haga, Knapp, and Kamph. McKenzie's grazing lease (allotment 367207) with the BLM near New Lake outlet was cancelled; however, a cooperative management agreement was not developed in its place. Instead, a cooperative rangeland improvement agreement was established to maintain fence lines between the BLM and McKenzie's property to ensure that livestock do not trespass within the ACEC.

Newly installed riparian fence along New River to exclude livestock from grazing along the river banks.





Location Map

Legend

- Section Number
- Parking Area
- Fence Line
- Primary Road
- Water Body
- State-owned Beach Zone 'Wet Sand'
- Grazing Not Allowed on Private Land
- Grazing Allowed on BLM Land Within ACEC
- New River ACEC BLM Administered Land

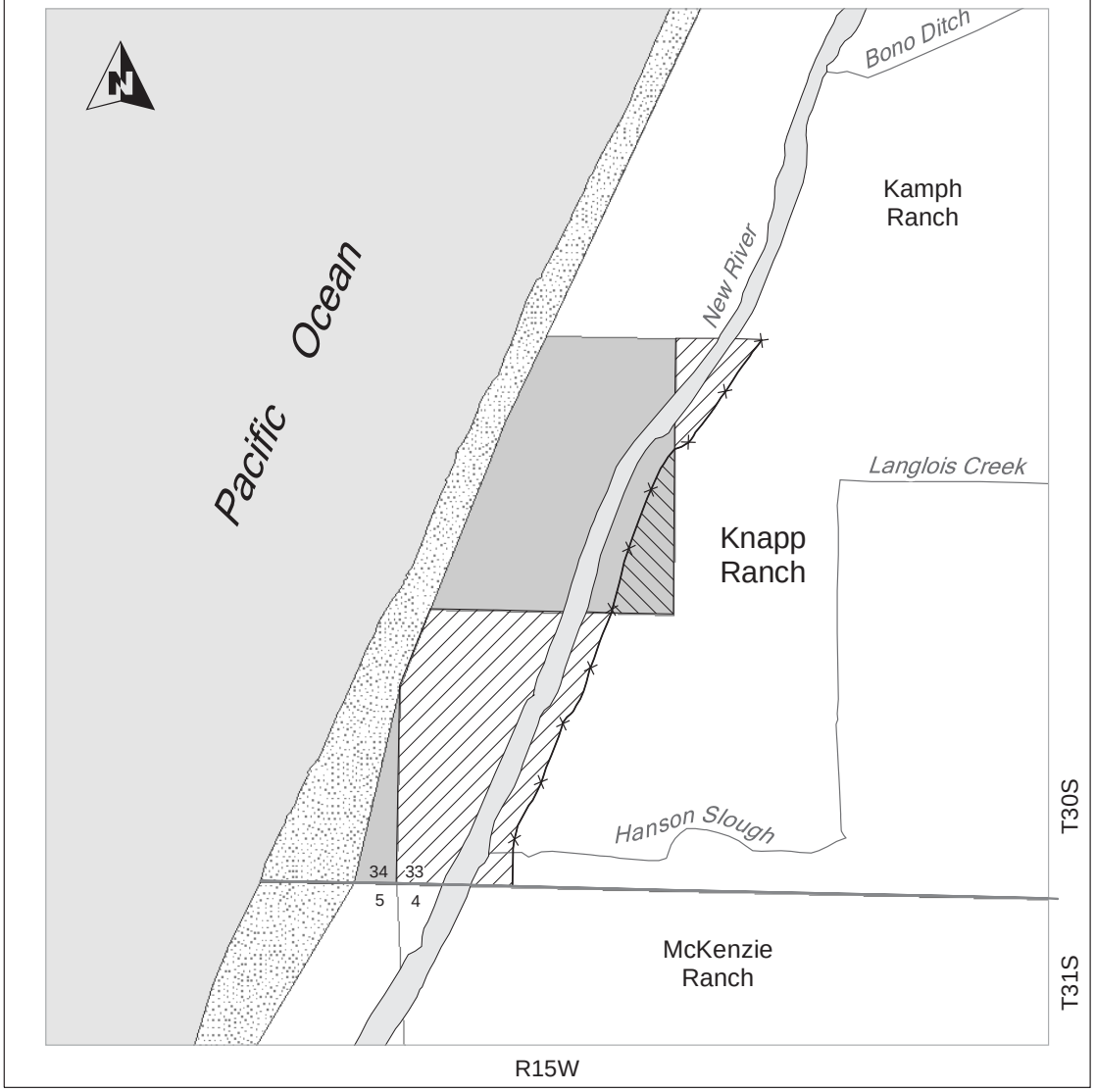
US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District Office
Myrtlewood Resource Area

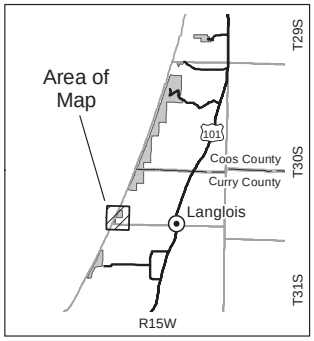
New River ACEC

0 800 1,600 2,400
Feet

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Map 10: BLM-Barton-Haga Cooperative Management Area





Location Map

Legend

- Stream
- Fence Line
- Water Body
- State-owned Beach Zone 'Wet Sand'
- Grazing Not Allowed on Private Land
- Grazing Allowed on BLM Land Within ACEC
- New River ACEC BLM Administered Land

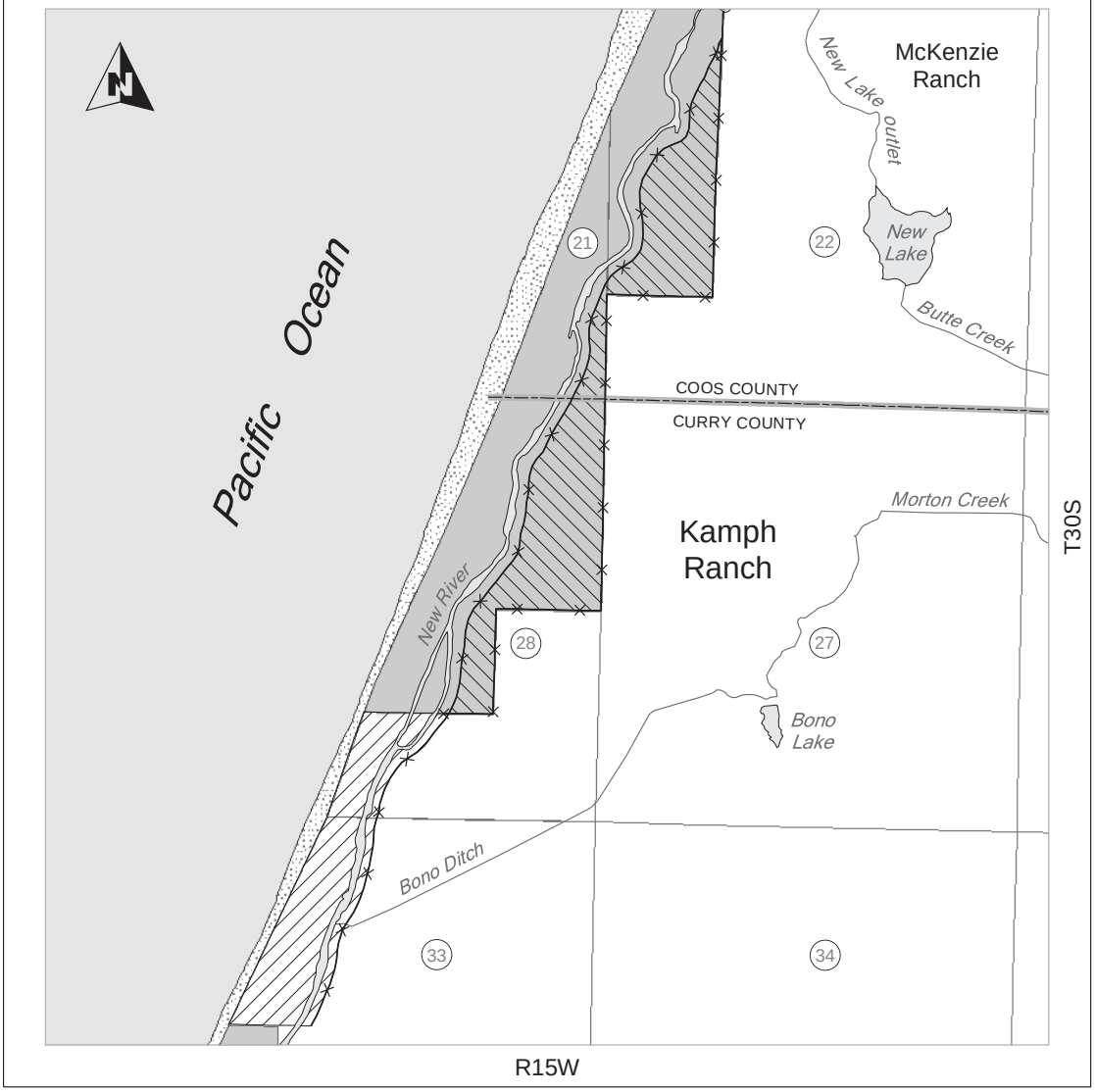
US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District Office
Myrtlewood Resource Area

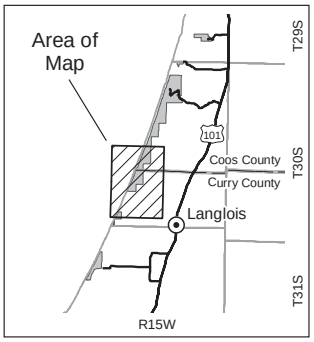
New River ACEC

0 500 1,000 1,500
Feet

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Map 11: BLM-Knapp Cooperative Management Area





Location Map

Legend

- (#) Section Number
- Fence Line
- Water Body
- State-owned Beach Zone 'Wet Sand'
- Grazing Not Allowed on Private Land
- Grazing Allowed on BLM Land Within ACEC
- New River ACEC BLM Administered Land

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District Office
Myrtlewood Resource Area

New River ACEC

0 0.25 0.5 0.75
Miles

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Map 12: BLM-Kamph Cooperative Management Area

Cooperative Management Agreement between the BLM and Curry County

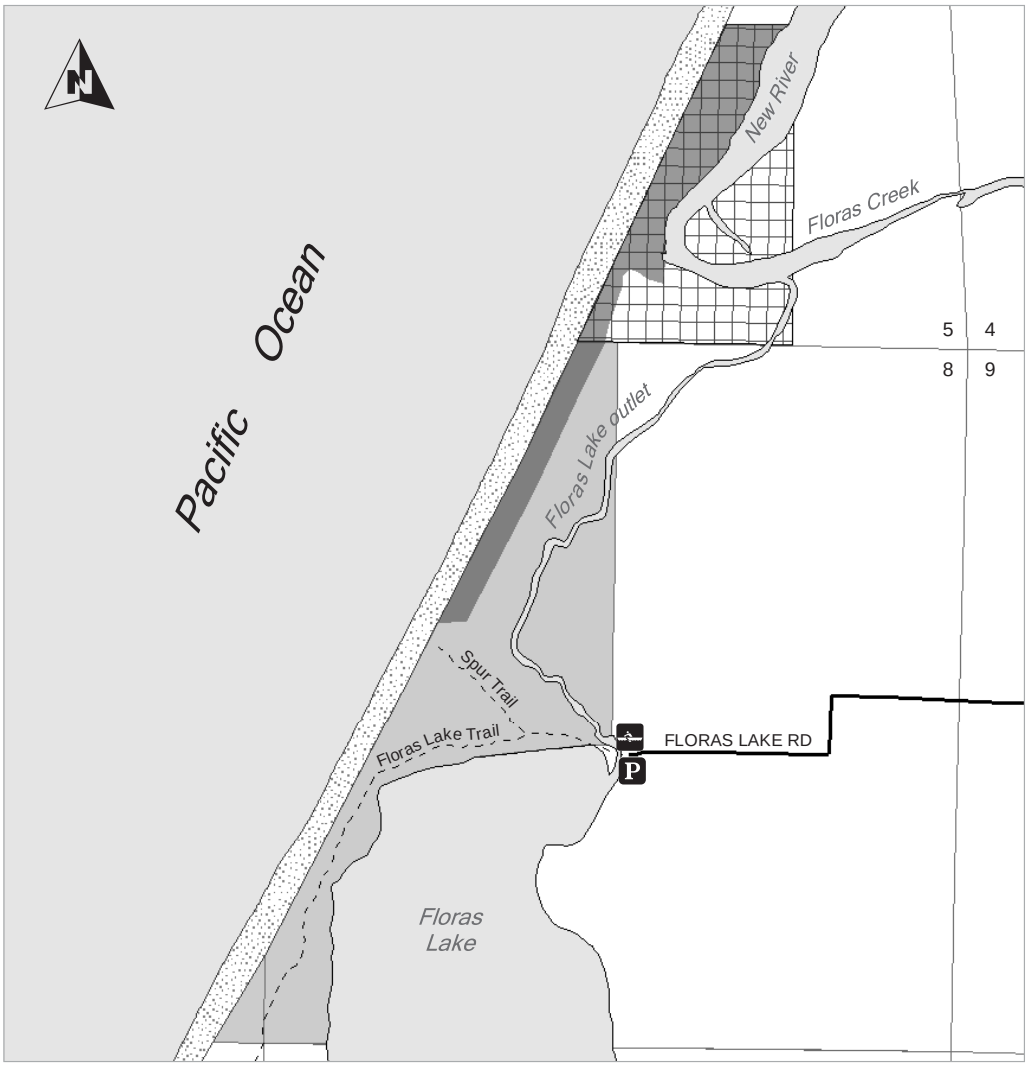
A cooperative management agreement was entered into by the BLM and Curry County to collaborate on management of Western Snowy Plover habitat and public use at Floras Lake. This agreement allows the BLM to open beach restrictions west of Floras Lake during the snowy plover nesting season (March 15 through September 15), in exchange for Curry County to implement a dry sand seasonal restriction on county land located north of Floras Lake.

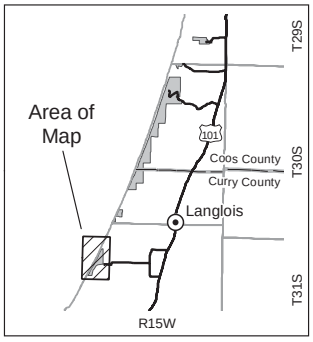
Since the mid to late 1990s, snowy plover use of the Floras Lake beach has declined due to change in beach morphology which has resulted in poor nesting habitat. A dramatic increase in recreational use on and around the lake has also contributed to this situation. No snowy plovers have successfully fledged young on this beach since 1998.

Currently, county lands north of Floras Lake contain higher quality plover habitat. Ocean over-washing, located at the bend in New River on county property, keeps the area relatively free of vegetation, providing ideal nesting habitat for plovers. This area has significantly less recreational use than BLM lands adjacent to the lake, and it is likely that plover nesting success will be greater with the added dry-sand restrictions during the nesting season.

The success of this agreement will be measured in large part by the cooperation of the visiting public to the Floras Lake area. Visitors are asked to observe posted signs during their visit to comply with the new restrictions.

This cooperative management agreement remains flexible in case plovers do choose to nest on BLM lands adjacent to Floras Lake or if habitat conditions change. An adaptive management approach will ensure that plovers are protects for the long-term at this site.





Location Map

Legend

- Parking Area
- Boat Launch
- Trail
- Primary Road
- Water Body
- State-owned Beach Zone 'Wet Sand'
- Snowy Plover Seasonal 'Dry Sand' Restricted Area
- Curry County Administered Land
- New River ACEC BLM Administered Land

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District Office
Myrtlewood Resource Area

New River ACEC

0 800 1,600 2,400
Feet

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Map 13: BLM-Curry County Cooperative Management Area

Acquisition Strategy

Objective 10 – Develop an effective acquisition strategy in collaboration with willing landowners to improve overall protection and public benefit of the New River area.

Reasons for Action

The greater New River ecosystem extends across a complex pattern of federal, state, county, and private ownership. To insure protection of ACEC values that extend beyond the ACEC boundary, an acquisition strategy is needed. A successful strategy needs to include: exchanges, direct purchases, and conservation easements. With a variety of options, the acquisition strategy should be able to adapt to market changes, shifts in public attitudes, funding opportunities, and policy changes.

Planned Actions

- Maintain habitat and enhance recovery efforts for special status species through land tenure adjustments, including: exchanges, direct purchase, and conservation easements.

- Update the acquisition zone to include only those lands that complement the existing public land base and public interest associated with the New River ACEC. The acquisition zone is only designed to identify potential lands that may become available from willing sellers.

- All lands acquired within the acquisition zone will be designated as part of the New River ACEC and managed consistent with its goals and objectives.

- Establish property lines for newly acquired lands through legal surveys to determine the true boundary between private and public lands. Once ownership lines are established, place boundary monuments to identify public lands. When necessary, ensure that private landowners maintain fences to keep livestock from trespassing into the ACEC.

- Develop and implement a conservation easement program that provides resource protection and public benefits.

- Provide written criteria for establishing easements. Written criteria that is based on resource protection and public benefit will assure that BLM is developing easements that serve the public good and can be enforced over the long term.

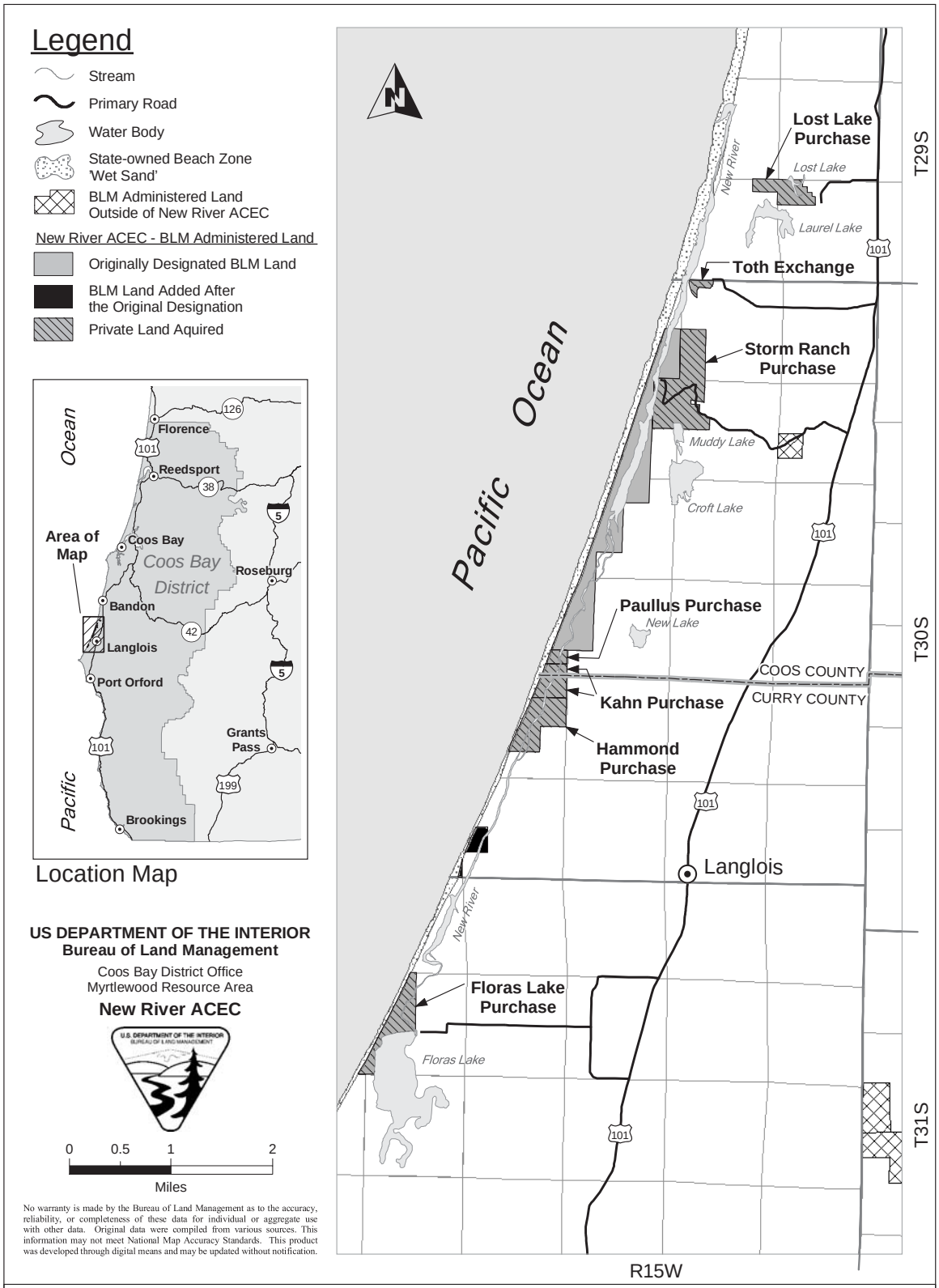
Actions Accomplished or On-going

General

- The original New River ACEC Acquisition Plan, completed in 1989, identified a strip of land along New River which was considered important for the conservation and management of the area's unique natural resources. A coalition of 20 national conservation groups recommended that Congress fund the purchase of private lands within this zone from the Land and Water

Conservation Fund. These funds were appropriated by Congress and to date seven properties have been acquired, six through purchase and one by land exchange.

- The New River ACEC Acquisition Plan was updated in 1993, to reflect changing market conditions and opportunities. The Coos Bay District, BLM, currently prefers to purchase lands identified in the acquisition zone, but will also consider exchanges, partial title acquisition (conservation easements), and cooperative agreements. Current opportunities for fee acquisitions within the acquisition zone are limited due to unwilling landowners, a deficiency of federal purchase funds, lands suitable for exchange (lands with the same character), and current acquisition policy.



Map 14: Acquisition History